

**Transcript of Proceedings - October 11, 2012
Volume 6**

866
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
RECEIVED: 10/22/12, 10:39:38 AM

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

APPLICATION OF HIGHLAND WIND FARM,)
 LLC, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC)
 CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO)
 CONSTRUCT A 102.5 MEGAWATT WIND)
 ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITY AND)
 ASSOCIATED ELECTRIC FACILITIES, TO) Docket No.
 BE LOCATED IN THE TOWNS OF FOREST) 2535-CE-100
 AND CYLON, ST. CROIX COUNTY,)
 WISCONSIN)

EXAMINER MICHAEL E. NEWMARK, PRESIDING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

OCTOBER 11, 2012

VOLUME 6

TECHNICAL SESSION

Reported By:

LYNN M. BAYER, RPR, CM
 Gramann Reporting, Ltd.
 (414) 272-7878

HEARING HELD:

October 11, 2012

Emerald, Wisconsin

6:00 p.m.

TRANSCRIPT PAGES:

866 - 1001, Incl.

EXHIBITS:

NONE

A P P E A R A N C E S

HIGHLAND WIND FARM, LLC, Michael Best &
Friedrich LLP, by MR. JOHN D. WILSON, P.O. Box 1806,
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1806.

FOREST VOICE, INC., Garvey McNeil & Associates,
S.C., by ANNE BENSKY, One Odana Court, Madison,
Wisconsin 53719.

TOWN OF FOREST, Reynolds & Associates, by GLENN
REYNOLDS, 407 East Main Street, Madison, Wisconsin
53703.

COMMISSIONERS:

Eric Callisto (via telephone)
Phil Montgomery (via telephone)

OF THE COMMISSION STAFF

JOHN LORENCE, Office of General Counsel
James Lepinski
Scot Cullen
Michael John Jaeger

(FOR INDEX SEE BACK OF TRANSCRIPT.)

1 (Discussion off the record.)

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let's see, our first
3 person is -- and I mispronounce people's names,
4 notoriously I'm bad at that. Kim Zohlke.

5 MR. ZOHLKE: Yes, that's right.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: First time.

7 KIM ZOHLKE, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Just spell your name
9 for the record.

10 MR. ZOHLKE: Z O H L K E, first name is
11 Kim, K I M.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And just tell us where
13 you live.

14 MR. ZOHLKE: My home address is 703
15 Pleasant Oak Drive, Oregon, Wisconsin.

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And any property in the
17 area that you're concerned about?

18 MR. ZOHLKE: No, I have not. My farm is
19 straight south of here two hours, in Monroe County.

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Go ahead.

21 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

22 BY MR. ZOHLKE: Well, thank you for
23 letting me go near the front end here. With the
24 last name of Z, we don't get to start off very
25 often.

1 As a way of background, name is Kim
2 Zohlke. I was the head of new generation for
3 Alliant Energy of Invest In Your Own Utility that
4 basically serves parts of Iowa, Wisconsin and
5 Minnesota. I spent 30 years at Alliant and left
6 Alliant three and a half years ago after 30 years in
7 the industry. And in that process, I had the
8 opportunity to permit coal plants, permit gas
9 generation, permit wind farm generation, and buy a
10 host of different resources from distributed
11 generation from a number of different small sources
12 primarily on behalf of the utility customers and the
13 renewable portfolio requirements of the company.

14 I also had the opportunity to better and
15 develop a wind farm construction firm, an EPC firm,
16 that basically built wind farms nationwide. I've
17 had the opportunity to travel nationwide and visit
18 with stakeholders, landowners, and just about
19 anybody who's connected to a wind farm in a number
20 of different projects ranging from the State of
21 New York to Texas to -- and throughout the upper
22 midwest.

23 For the matter of the record, there's
24 three things that I wanted to be part of the record.
25 And by the way, this is my own opinion, not that of

1 a former employer or a current employer, but from
2 the standpoint of what it is that I think that's
3 important about this decision that's before the PSC.

4 Number one is the importance of wind in
5 the integrated resource portfolio for the utility.
6 Wind has a very unique position, and that is it is
7 high upfront capital cost, it is low operating cost,
8 and the going forward costs are very much known and
9 very, very much low risk. There is no fuel risk,
10 there is no environmental emissions risk with the
11 wind farm. As a utility, you want part of that in
12 your portfolio. That's part of your hedge in your
13 portfolio.

14 There is new interest in large companies,
15 like Google and others, who have said, you know
16 what, we declare our own RPS standard, we want green
17 in our resource portfolio and we want options. In
18 addition, we have the military whose requirement for
19 green energy is part of an administrative order and
20 they are looking for green energy. Good green
21 energy resources have an important part in our
22 future.

23 The second point I wanted to put on the
24 record was the importance and the good work that PSC
25 128 was. I have had the opportunity to build a wind

1 farm and develop it in Wisconsin without those
2 rules. I've also built wind farms in other states
3 that had similar rules, and I've built in other
4 states that had no rules at all. From the
5 standpoint of -- while there may be differences of
6 opinion about those rules in general, no matter
7 where you go, the topics are the same, the debates
8 are the same, the issues are generally the same. We
9 solve them differently at times because of the local
10 requirements, the local needs, or whatever. But
11 believe me, that piece of work, 128, in my mind
12 represents one of the best sets of wind standards I
13 have seen anywhere and represents a collective
14 balance of what I'll call the stakeholders in terms
15 of helping provide a guideline.

16 Last point I wanted to make was the fact
17 that -- the importance of a good developer. In the
18 late '90s, in the early 2000s, I was approached by a
19 lot of developers that were new in the process and
20 we used to say two guys in a pick-'em-up truck could
21 start developing a wind farm. I had the opportunity
22 to buy a number of wind farms for the utility fleet
23 and do the due diligence for the quality of the wind
24 farm that we were buying; found a big difference in
25 terms of the quality, the work and the stakeholder

1 listening and management that was going on.

2 From what I can ascertain, the EEW group
3 has done a good job being straightforward,
4 transparent and following the guidelines with regard
5 to PSC 128. From my perspective, in some -- these
6 sorts of projects are needed. Wisconsin lags our
7 neighbors, Minnesota and Illinois and Michigan.
8 These sorts of projects are needed for our energy
9 future. The guidelines that we are working under
10 seem to be as good as what we've got and as good as
11 what anyone has with regard to going forward and are
12 critically important. And lastly, it seems as
13 though that the develop that you're working with
14 wants to do the right thing in terms of developing
15 the process.

16 So that's the end of my questions -- or
17 comments. Thanks for the opportunity.

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thank you, sir.

19 (Witness excused.)

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Next is
21 Cindy Kuscienko. Did I get that right?

22 MS. KUSCIENKO: You did very well. You
23 are probably one of four that have ever pronounced
24 it correctly.

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Is that on the record?

1 Okay. Let's just get off the record a second.

2 (Discussion off the record.)

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let me swear you in.

4 CINDY KUSCIENKO, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Can you spell your last
6 names for us.

7 MS. KUSCIENKO: K U S C I E N, as in
8 Nancy, K O.

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I have you at 2953
10 210th Avenue in Emerald. And any other properties
11 or tower locations you're concerned about?

12 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

13 BY MS. KUSCIENKO: Yes, very much so. I
14 live within a half mile of the turbine that is just
15 east of the Salseg property. My property will also
16 be compromised because the collector circuits will
17 be going down the road on our side of the road. My
18 septic system is within feet of that ditch. So yes,
19 I have very many concerns, not only from the nearby
20 turbines; but in reviewing the maps, we are
21 basically surrounded by 12 of them within a mile of
22 my home.

23 I am going to read a statement, so if I go
24 too fast, which I have tendency to do, please be
25 sure to stop me.

1 I am Cindy Kuscienko and I have been a
2 resident of the Town of Forest for the last seven
3 years. My husband and I purchased 40 acres back in
4 2005, moved here, and never looked back at going
5 back to the Twin Cities. We fell in love with the
6 area, and our dream is to live here and to die here.

7 Now that dream is in jeopardy with the
8 potential of a 41 500-foot wind turbine project in
9 the Town of Forest where the majority of the
10 residents are vehemently opposed to a project of
11 this magnitude. Not only were we lied to by the
12 managing members of Emerging Energies, LLC/Highland
13 Wind, LLC, we were betrayed by the people we trusted
14 as town board members and friends.

15 As someone who has every intention of
16 staying in the Town of Forest until I am no longer
17 capable of living on my own, I am very concerned
18 about the health impacts that could present
19 themselves if this project does come to fruition.
20 Not only for me and my husband, but for the many
21 people that live in this area. I do understand that
22 some people have been unaffected by turbines of any
23 size in wind projects throughout the country. But
24 as testimony is given in Wisconsin and throughout
25 the world, there are many that are impacted. There

1 are three families in the Shirley project in
2 Glenmore, Wisconsin, who abandoned their homes
3 because of health issues that came up after the
4 turbines there went online. I have been to the top
5 of Iowa Wind Farm that consists of 89 turbines in
6 the Joice, Kensett and Lake Mills, Iowa area, where
7 the turbines there would be considered minuscule at
8 320 feet tall.

9 I was impacted by the shadow flicker as I
10 tried to take video footage of it. I also
11 experienced headaches on a regular basis when in
12 close proximity to the turbines. Just seeing the
13 blades rotating in the distance caused me to
14 experience dizziness. Based on my own personal
15 experience, I have no doubt that the people who have
16 testified before the PSC in Wisconsin are telling
17 the truth as they know it.

18 What could possibly motivate them to give
19 up everything they have worked for, where they've
20 raised their families, where they've kept the family
21 legacy alive by taking over the homestead, to lie
22 about what has happened not only to them, but to
23 their children? How can they not be believed when
24 all over the world there are families that have all
25 experienced many of the same health issues without

1 any known cause other than the common denominator in
2 all of the complaints are industrial health wind
3 turbines?

4 The fact that they moved to protect the
5 health, safety and welfare of their families, I
6 consider their actions to be heroic and unselfish
7 even though many may have comprised their financial
8 health as they cannot sell their home. Their
9 decisions were based on self-preservation and one of
10 the most primitive defensive reactions, protecting
11 the family. Mr. Dave Enz, who now lives with his
12 wife in their motor home away from his property, has
13 offered numerous times including, again, in his
14 testimony at the technical hearing in Madison, an
15 open invitation to his vacant home in Glenmore to
16 anyone wishing to see for themselves what he and his
17 wife experienced there after the Shirley project
18 went online. To save their lives, they gave up
19 everything they put their hearts and souls into.

20 I challenge the Public Service
21 Commissioners, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Callisto and
22 Ms. Nowak, along with anyone connected with any
23 legislation concerning wind turbine construction in
24 the State of Wisconsin, to take Mr. Enz up on his
25 offer. Every senator, every state representative,

1 every town board member, every mayor, every
2 government official, including Governor Walker,
3 should be mandated to stay in the Enz' home for 24
4 hours or more when the turbines are in operation.

5 Again, I challenge you to know firsthand
6 what many have testified to with God as their
7 witness. Bring your spouse, children, bring your
8 grandchildren, and see for yourself what can happen
9 with an industrial wind project. You may not
10 personally be affected by the audible sound, the
11 electromagnetic fields, the changes in pressure on
12 the body, the headaches, the anxiety and the panicky
13 feeling that many may experience; but your elderly
14 mother, your epileptic son, your autistic brother,
15 may be. Do you want to take that chance? What
16 would you do if it was your family? Would you let
17 them stay in harm's way? Would you call them liars?
18 Would you tell them that this just can't be possible
19 because you were told by the wind developer and some
20 of your elected officials that support the ideology
21 that wind energy is not only clean, green and free,
22 but that wind turbines don't cause people to get
23 sick? Would you be able to go to sleep at night
24 with a clear conscience knowing there are families
25 that do suffer these symptoms? What would you do if

1 it was yours?

2 You would do what I am doing, fighting any
3 way I can to preserve life as I know it now,
4 protecting what we have toiled with our blood, sweat
5 and tears for from the threat of a manmade plague.
6 This plague is not about saving the world. It is
7 about greed, corruption, and the promise of
8 greenbacks to a few landowners and making wind
9 developers millionaires in controlling our land.

10 I am concerned with the potential effect
11 of turbines on my own health as I have been
12 diagnosed with high blood pressure in the last year
13 and a half. While it is being treated with
14 medication, I have no idea how this could play out
15 if turbines came into the town. I also found out
16 many years ago that I cannot sleep with an electric
17 blanket on my bed. Even turned off, these devices
18 still emit electromagnetic fields, just like all of
19 our electric devices emit, that would then result in
20 my awakening with a headache every morning that
21 blanket was plugged in. When I removed the blanket
22 from my bed or unplugged it, my headaches
23 diminished. If could be affected in that manner, I
24 wonder how others will also be affected.

25 I am also the aunt of a young man

1 diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. I know
2 firsthand how noises and other things you and I
3 would consider unobtrusive and subtle impact one who
4 is struggling with any form of autistic spectrum
5 disorder. Would my nephew be able to come to my
6 home if the turbines are in operation? I don't
7 know. I do know that he is very sensitive to noise
8 and I would be concerned for his well-being. I am
9 aware of two families that have children with
10 autism. And I fear that a wind project could, and
11 probably would, completely derail their health and
12 well-being as well as devastating the lives of the
13 parents who care for these children.

14 Sure, mitigating audible sound and shadow
15 flicker is feasible. We can wear earplugs or
16 headgear to try to block the noise. We can wear
17 dark sunglasses, close all the windows, draw the
18 shades, go into rooms without windows, turn on the
19 air conditioning to block the pulsating whooshes
20 that permeate the atmosphere. We can use more
21 electricity to protect ourselves from those
22 so-called annoyances, perpetuating the need for more
23 turbines or other forms of energy to keep up with
24 the increased demand due to mothers and fathers
25 trying to protect their family, to get their

1 children to sleep peacefully so they can function
2 and learn in school, to make sure that the doctor or
3 nurse in the house can be rested for the next day's
4 surgery schedule, for the pilot who is flying
5 soldiers from areas of war back to the arms of their
6 loved ones. That rationalization of using more
7 energy to mitigate the potentially life threatening
8 conditions caused by irresponsible turbine siting
9 does not make sense to me.

10 Sleep depravation has been the most
11 discussed symptom of living within an industrial
12 wind project. Sleep depravation can cause
13 irreparable harm and damage to any living, breathing
14 creature. Sleep depravation is a form of torture
15 that has been used for centuries. Sleep depravation
16 caused by infrasound, the inaudible sound, has been
17 known to cause death.

18 In Wikipedia, infrasound is described as,
19 I quote, nonlethal, but can still kill under certain
20 conditions, unquote. The U.S. Department of Defense
21 states, and again I quote, that it has demonstrated
22 phased arrays of infrasonic emitters. The device
23 generates sound at about 7 hertz. The output from
24 the device is routed to an array of open emitters.
25 At this frequency, armor and concrete walls and

1 other common building materials allow sound waves to
2 pass through providing little defense, end quote.

3 Also noted in research conducted that some
4 common bioeffects of electromagnetic or other
5 nonlethal weapons include effects to the human
6 central nervous system resulting in physical pain,
7 breathing difficulty, vertigo, nausea,
8 disorientation, and other systemic discomforts.
9 Interference with breathing poses the most
10 significant and potentially lethal results. Light
11 and repetitive visual signals can induce epileptic
12 seizures. Vection and motion sickness can
13 also occur. Cavitation, which effects gas nuclei in
14 human tissue, and heating can result from exposure
15 to ultrasound and can cause damage to tissue and
16 organs, end quote.

17 I am not an expert in any of these areas
18 by any means. But common sense tells me that this
19 effect cannot be mitigated, that the only recourse
20 would be to suffer the consequences or move away
21 from the source of infrasound. We should not be
22 referred to as collateral damage or policy roadkill.
23 We are people very concerned about the effect of
24 500-foot industrial wind turbines on the quality of
25 our lives, the effect on our land values and, as

1 importantly, the retention of our constitutional
2 rights in Amendments 5 and 14.

3 Please, Commissioners, do the right thing
4 and deny the application of a CPCN for Highland Wind
5 Farm in the Town of Forest Wisconsin. Thank you
6 very much.

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, ma'am.

8 (Witness excused.)

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Off the record.

10 (Discussion off the record.)

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Goodrich, Claudine.

12 CLAUDINE GOODRICH, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And Goodrich, it's
14 G O O D R I C H, at 3032 210th Avenue in Emerald.
15 Do you have any other address or turbine location
16 that you're concerned about?

17 MS. GOODRICH: That's it.

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Go ahead.

19 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

20 By MS. GOODRICH: Hi, my name is Claudine
21 Goodrich. Thank you for the opportunity to share my
22 thoughts in this important topic. As a landowner
23 who could potentially host one of the turbines,
24 please know that I take this situation extremely
25 seriously. I have devoted many hours of thought and

1 prayer to finally arrive at the insights that I'm
2 going to share with you today.

3 I am a wife of 36 years, a mother of three
4 grown children, a grandmother of two grandsons, a
5 teacher of English, and an owner of a cattle
6 operation in Forest Township. In each one of these
7 roles, I care deeply about the people and the
8 animals that I care for and interact with. My
9 husband, my kids, my grandkids, my students, my
10 cows, my horses, my friends, and my neighbors. I
11 very much would never make a decision that I thought
12 might harm these people or creatures who are so very
13 special to me.

14 The concern about visual, auditory and
15 other impacts from the turbines is a natural
16 reaction, especially when the source is so close to
17 our beloved homes. However, after weighing all the
18 research and evidence, after re-examining the
19 process that Emerging Energies has pursued, after
20 listening to the opponents and the supporters of the
21 wind farm, I truly believe that to move ahead with
22 the wind farm is the right decision. Wind power
23 combines the best offer by mother nature and today's
24 technology to provide a valuable source of energy.

25 We must concentrate on the importance of a

1 bigger picture, our future generations. It is
2 essential that we do our part to provide those who
3 come after us with a clean, safe and unconstrained
4 existence such as we were given.

5 I love the community and the people and
6 the land in Forest Township. I fell in love with
7 Forest the moment my family explored it 15 years
8 ago. I realize the turbines will change the
9 appearance of our communities. I get that. But
10 that transformation will strengthen our country in
11 the end. We still have the land and each other to
12 cherish. When I look at my grandkids, I want them
13 to know that I did my best to ensure that they have
14 the life opportunities I was so fortunate to have
15 because my ancestors were thinking about me before I
16 was born.

17 We simply cannot continue to be dependent
18 on other countries for energy, and we cannot keep
19 producing unclean energy. Just as the telegraph
20 wires, the railroad tracks, the power lines, and the
21 cell towers before us, we learned to live with and
22 embrace progress. In fact, we soon learned to
23 cherish the benefits provided by these changes which
24 frightened us so much at first. I feel the wind
25 turbines will quickly become a valuable part of our

1 beautiful forest landscape because we are helping to
2 meet the ever-increasing demands for clean power
3 generation. I will be proud to support any effort
4 that will ensure a happy, healthy, free existence,
5 that our future generations so justly deserve.
6 Thank you.

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, ma'am.

8 (Witness excused.)

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Melinda Goodrich.

10 MELINDA GOODRICH, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Same Goodrich, and I
12 have you at 144 Highway 63 in Clear Lake?

13 MS. M. GOODRICH: Yes.

14 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And other properties or
15 places you want to talk about?

16 MS. M. GOODRICH: No.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Go ahead.

18 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

19 BY MS. M. GOODRICH: My name is Melinda
20 Goodrich, and I would like to take the time to
21 express my support for the proposed Highland Wind
22 Farm in Forest, Wisconsin. I reside in nearby Clear
23 Lake and own property in Forest Township, and my
24 family resides in Forest Township.

25 I was first introduced to the idea of

1 harvesting wind energy in our area about four years
2 ago, and after careful research and education have
3 been a proponent of the Highland Wind Farm project.
4 I believe it brings an immense means of economic
5 support to our community which in this current
6 economy is vital to our town's future. It also
7 takes advantage of our resource readily available in
8 our area: wind. Wind energy is a clean resource
9 that aids in reducing pollution, wind energy is cost
10 competitive and, in fact, one of the least expensive
11 renewable energy sources currently available.

12 The proposed Highland Wind Farm will bring
13 much needed jobs to our small communities; and on a
14 global level, by supporting wind energy growth, we
15 can hopefully limit our dependence on foreign
16 sources of fossil fuels.

17 In conclusion, I believe the benefits of
18 moving forward with the proposed Highland Wind Farm
19 in Forest, Wisconsin, far outweigh any negatives. I
20 would like to see this project move forward.

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

22 (Witness excused.)

23 (Discussion off the record.)

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let's continue on.

25 Jennifer Anderson.

1 JENNIFER ANDERSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: So that's Anderson,
3 A N D E R S O N.

4 MS. ANDERSON: Yes.

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: 1977 County Road P in
6 Glenwood?

7 MS. ANDERSON: Yes.

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any other addresses or
9 locations you want to talk about or are concerned
10 about?

11 MS. ANDERSON: The 40 acres at 1977 County
12 Road P, that's turbine number 49 to the east. There
13 is a turbine directly to the west. And the O&M
14 building is across the road to the south of our 40
15 acres.

16 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

17 BY MS. ANDERSON: Again, my name is
18 Jennifer Anderson, and I have lived in the Town of
19 Forest for nine years. I grew up in the Town of
20 Emerald, which is the municipality touching the
21 southwest corner of the Town of Forest.

22 I grew up knowing current Town of Forest
23 residents through school, church, 4H, et cetera. I
24 grew up on a dairy farm. I milked cows to support
25 myself through college, and I even married the

1 milkman. Some of my best friends are dairy farmers.
2 And I have a huge respect for the farming community
3 because my life has always revolved around the
4 farming community. I know how hard farming is,
5 financially, physically, mentally, emotionally. And
6 I believe what is harder than that is how this whole
7 scenario has torn the farming community of the Town
8 of Forest apart. And this huge tear in our
9 community I believe comes from the lack of public
10 outreach.

11 Jay Munding's rebuttal testimony dated
12 August 19th, page 2, line 16, states, "Considering
13 the number of presentations that were made to
14 publicly noticed meetings at the town hall, Emerging
15 Energies and Highland Wind Farm were clearly above
16 board from the onset," et cetera, et cetera, and
17 Jamie Junker's direct testimony dated August 30th,
18 2012, and all his exhibits dated August 30th, 2012,
19 shows facts of no public outreach. And this lack of
20 public outreach has, I believe, a large impact on
21 public health that will change lives in the township
22 forever.

23 I'm going to use one example of the Bob
24 Miller family. They live at 2948 Highway 64. Bob
25 has Parkinson's disease, and anyone who knows Bob

1 knows he has a huge sense of humor and would take
2 the shirt off his back for anyone. Bob and his
3 wife, Annette, have four grandchildren with one on
4 the way within a few-mile radius. The Miller family
5 is a nonparticipating dairy farm with many turbines
6 surrounding the farm. Literally his entire farm
7 will be covered with noise plumes.

8 Now, I'm not against being green. I
9 recycle as much as possible, I watch my energy
10 usage, et cetera. But there is a place for
11 everything. And I'm not pointing out the whole
12 concept of "not in my backyard." But why put them
13 in a residential area, based on negative health
14 studies? And I'm asking the PSC to please consider
15 the negative health impacts that this will have on
16 the Miller family and many other Town of Forest
17 residents.

18 And I would like to submit to the PSC my
19 current health survey. I am 35 years old and on two
20 high blood pressure medications. My family genetics
21 is not the greatest. My father passed away at the
22 age of 40 of heart disease, my grandfather was 57,
23 and my great grandfather is 45. And I'm not going
24 to predict the future of my health status -- maybe I
25 got my mother's genes -- but I do have health issues

1 that have the possibility to move in an even greater
2 direction.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

4 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you so much.

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

6 (Witness excused.)

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: So the witness has
8 handed me a survey entitled Survey Questionnaire
9 Forest Resident Information Health Survey dated
10 September 18th with her name and address. So we'll
11 put that with her comments. We'll file that with
12 the public comment exhibit.

13 Okay. We have Bob Tredinnick.

14 BOB TREDINNICK, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

15 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I have your name,

16 T R E D I N I -- N I C K.

17 MR. TREDINNICK: T R E D I N N I C K.

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. 2044 County Road
19 P in Emerald?

20 MR. TREDINNICK: Um-hmm.

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any other locations
22 you're concerned about or interested in?

23 MR. TREDINNICK: No.

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Go ahead.

25 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

1 BY MR. TREDINNICK: I learned about the
2 windmill project when it was first put in the paper
3 that, you know, this company wanted to come up, talk
4 about it. And when I first saw it, I kind of
5 thought it was a classic example of, you know, a
6 company coming in wanting to pit one place against
7 another for development like large manufacturers do.

8 I was kind of surprise when had I got here
9 and found out they were really seriously interested
10 in putting up some windmills here. Didn't know
11 anything about them. They had two or three other
12 meetings after that initial one, and that's when
13 they asked if I would be -- people at the meeting or
14 if I would be interested in signing up or hosting
15 one. And I signed up that I would be interested in
16 it.

17 After that, you know, there is a long time
18 went by, and I found out that at a future meeting
19 that I would not be chosen or my land was not chosen
20 to post a wind turbine. Shortly thereafter, I was
21 approached to sign an overhang easement with the
22 company. And that took about five or six months
23 going back and forth before a final decision was
24 made. But while that was going on, I knew someone
25 that was opposed to the windmills that they actually

1 made the trip over and spent time at an existing
2 wind facility. And frankly, I thought that was
3 pretty smart idea. So I traveled down to northern
4 Iowa, southern Minnesota, where I knew there was
5 some wind farms there and hung around there for a
6 while, not really analogous to the ones and the size
7 they want to put up here. So recently, down in
8 Cashton, Wisconsin, I noticed that they put up some
9 towers that would appear to be the same size of what
10 they want to put here. I didn't measure them by any
11 stretch. But, you know, after, you know, seeing
12 those, being around them, spending time with them, I
13 did sign the overhang easement.

14 Our township has, you know, needs that the
15 current board has identified. Frankly, I agree with
16 them, whether it be roads, equipment, labor,
17 whatever the case may be. And, frankly, that stuff
18 takes money to do. We don't have a lot of business
19 or industry being down, you know, the highway to
20 develop or set up shop here in Forest. If we want
21 to grow our community or expand or improve, we have
22 one source, and that's taxing the people who live
23 here. And whether it be through bonds or direct
24 taxes, the wind development is going to give us an
25 opportunity to have a nice way to either reduce our

1 taxes or at minimum hold them at the same where
2 they're at now, and still be able to meet the goals
3 of what the current town board has identified.

4 There's no doubt the windmills are going
5 to change the landscape. You know, I understand
6 that completely. I would never try to convince
7 myself or anyone otherwise. But the landscape's
8 changed hundreds of times over the years; and as was
9 stated earlier, I didn't realize I would be
10 repeating it, but as was stated earlier, it's simply
11 another change that is coming down the road, and I
12 think it will be quite beneficial.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Well,
14 thanks very much.

15 MR. TREDINNICK: Thank you.

16 (Within excused.)

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Mona Karau, K A R A U.

18 MONA KARAU, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

19 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I have you at 2643
20 Highway 64, Emerald?

21 MS. KARAU: Um-hmm.

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any other locations or
23 tower locations?

24 MS. KARAU: No.

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

BY MS. KARAU: Let me read my statement.

Commissioner, my name is Mona Karau. My husband and I have lived on our farm in the Town of Forest for 32 years. My roots run deep here. I have been the town treasurer for 24 years. I also have been the organist for St. John's for over 30 years. I have worked for the federal Head Start Program in the community for over 25 years. I'm a bird watcher, a lover of nature, and I love the benefits of hunting.

According to the thorough studies that are required by the state, which Emerging Energies had to submit, prove that what I love about living here in Forest will not be compromised. I feel the proposed wind farm that Emerging Energies wants to build is a wonderful opportunity for the community, county and the state. Benefits I feel our community will see are local farmers who will benefit financially; to succeed, farmers need diversity. The town and county residents will benefit financially. There will be job opportunities, local businesses will benefit financially, the country will benefit by the green energy produced in the Town of Forest.

I hope that the Public Service Commission

1 will deem this a project that can proceed as planned
2 by Emerging Energies. And thank you for this
3 opportunity.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

5 (Witness excused.)

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Next is Ray Smith.

7 RAY SMITH, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I have you at 2338
9 265th Street in Clear Lake?

10 MR. SMITH: That's correct.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any other properties or
12 tower locations you want to talk about?

13 MR. SMITH: No. Is it all right if I
14 stand?

15 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I prefer if you sit, if
16 you don't mind. Unless --

17 MR. SMITH: See, I was taught -- I was a
18 teacher, and I was taught that when you're teaching
19 you should stand.

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. What am I going
21 to say?

22 MR. SMITH: Somebody isn't paying
23 attention and you go over there and...

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let's go off the
25 record.

1 (Discussion off the record.)

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let's go ahead.

3 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

4 BY MR. SMITH: All right. I have lived in
5 the Township of Forest for 26 years. And prior to
6 that, I lived in Clear Lake for 17 years. Even
7 though I've been in this area for 43 years, I'm
8 still not a native. You have to be born here to be
9 a native.

10 Anyway, Forest was a farming community
11 originally. And now it has become more of a
12 residential community. People from the cities have
13 decided they didn't like the industrial complexes
14 they were living in and, therefore, they came out to
15 areas like Forest and bought land and spent a lot of
16 money, built good houses and were very happy with
17 it.

18 But now it appears that we are going to be
19 regressing a little bit because of -- people have
20 moved in and they expected it to be a residential
21 community. Now it has been redirected to an
22 industrial environment again with a proposal to
23 build 41 500-foot towers, wind turbines; and if this
24 happens, it'll bring to a halt of anyone else
25 wanting to build and live in this area.

1 Now, where I live, I'm probably
2 three-fourths of a mile from the closest tower. The
3 value of these homes that people have built will
4 drop, but the taxes won't, because it will take the
5 same amount of money to operate the township plus an
6 increase for inflation. And as you know, taxes are
7 based upon the equalized value of the property times
8 the mill rate. If the equalized value goes down,
9 the mill rate goes up so you get the same amount of
10 money.

11 Now, if the citizens of the Town of Forest
12 would have had the opportunity to vote on this
13 issue, we probably wouldn't be here tonight. And it
14 would be -- have been nice, this is looking back
15 over your shoulder of course, that the town board
16 that was in charge at that time had been much more
17 forthcoming as to what was going to develop. And
18 just think, if we could have had a meeting like this
19 three, four years ago, this would all have been
20 settled and either we'd have towers or we wouldn't.
21 But the people have never had the opportunity to
22 voice their opinion up until now. Thank you.

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Thank you,
24 sir.

25 (Witness excused.)

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Casey Keller,
2 K E L L E R. There he is. Okay.

3 CASEY KELLER, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I have you at 2719
5 210th Avenue in Deer Park?

6 MR. KELLER: Yes.

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. You can go
8 ahead.

9 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

10 BY MR. KELLER: I have several concerns
11 with placing these large industrial wind turbines in
12 the Township of Forest. It seems to me that
13 Emerging Energies has in the past kept the majority
14 of the town's people in the dark about their plans.
15 It was not until after the former town board made a
16 deal with Emerging Energies that I heard anything
17 about wind turbines in our community.

18 As an adjacent landowner, I'm confused as
19 to why Emerging Energies never contacted me to
20 explain their plans, how it would impact my family,
21 and try to alleviate my concerns or any concerns
22 that I might have. I did not receive a personal
23 invitation from Emerging Energies to get information
24 about the wind farm until a month after the
25 agreement was signed. I have not appreciated the

1 way they have intentionally divided this town and do
2 not trust Emerging Energies to care for this
3 township or its people.

4 So my first concern is with the integrity
5 of this company and its ability to deliver on its
6 word. Our home is within a quarter mile of a
7 proposed turbine site, and according to Emerging
8 Energies' computer model, we will get shadow
9 flicker. When I voiced my concerns to them, they
10 said they would mitigate this problem by planting
11 trees in front of our windows or turning off the
12 turbine during those times.

13 I want to be able to see out of my
14 windows. I don't need more trees on my land. So
15 that it is upon Emerging Energies to turn off the
16 turbines during times of shadow flicker. But if
17 they don't, then I have to monitor and document each
18 time they violate their agreement. And if they
19 refuse to do what they say, then I have to fight
20 them on my own. Again, I do not trust Emerging
21 Energies to do what they say.

22 My greater concern, though, is the fact
23 that my wife and a daughter are both diagnosed with
24 migraines. I also have a daughter who is on the
25 autism spectrum with ADHD and a son that is

1 diagnosed with epilepsy and also ADHD.

2 In the Public Service Commission's letter
3 sent to me, it stated there are individuals that
4 suffer from problems caused by wind turbines, but
5 the findings are not statistically significant. If
6 my wife or one of my children suffer from the effect
7 of wind turbines being in such close proximity, it
8 will have a significant impact on our family. We
9 cannot afford to sell our home and leave, and we
10 will be stuck.

11 We have four wind turbines within a mile
12 of our home, one on each side. I'm scared of what
13 might happen if these turbines are allowed to
14 surround us and our community. Thank you for your
15 time.

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

17 (Witness excused.)

18 MR. SMITH: And I would like to submit
19 the -- the health surveys.

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Is that for all
21 the people you mentioned?

22 MR. SMITH: Yes.

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let me point out this
24 is for Joy Keller, it's dated October 3rd. And does
25 it include -- oh, okay, then your wife -- your wife

1 and children are on there as well. It's two pages,
2 for the record. Okay. Well, thanks very much.

3 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: We'll put that in the
5 record.

6 (Witness excused.)

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: We have two names on
8 here, so we can take them one at a time or if you
9 want to decide who wants to speak. But Lorna Tiberg
10 or Rick Tiberg.

11 MS. TIBERG: I'm Lorna.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks for clarifying.

13 LORNA TIBERG, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

14 EXAMINER NEWMARK: It's Lorna Tiberg,
15 T I B E R G. And I have you at 2017 County Road P
16 in Emerald. Any other locations you want to talk
17 about, that you're concerned about?

18 MS. TIBERG: No.

19 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

20 BY MS. TIBERG: Yes. I'm Lorna Tiberg,
21 and my husband is Rick Tiberg. He's lived here his
22 whole life. I've lived here for the past 30 years,
23 and we live in the Township of Forest. Our oldest
24 son went to a college up in Northland in Ashland,
25 Wisconsin, that had a wind turbine on campus. He

1 spent three years there. The wind turbine supplied
2 electricity for the apartments, the townhouses that
3 were on his campus; and that's when we first were
4 introduced to wind energy. And we thought back then
5 what a great idea.

6 So when the opportunity arose for our area
7 to produce power from wind turbines, we were all for
8 it. We felt it was a great opportunity to bring
9 revenue to our township and our county.

10 We've heard a lot about different health
11 reasons people have had. And we have another son
12 who runs cross country, and he was running on campus
13 where there was another wind turbine. And so that
14 day that we were at the track meet, we decided to
15 talk to some people about how they felt about it.
16 And they said there wasn't any ill feelings they
17 were feeling as a result of the wind turbine that
18 was there.

19 So from our perspective, we felt that it
20 is a safe form of power, and we feel we need green
21 power in our area. And we back this project 100
22 percent.

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, ma'am.

24 (Witness excused.)

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And, I'm sorry, Rick

1 Tiberg, would you like to --

2 MS. TIBERG: That's my husband. He's not
3 here.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: He's not here. All
5 right. Kevin Lombardo. L O M B A R D O.

6 KEVIN LOMBARDO, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I have you at 2621
8 County Q in Clear Lake?

9 MR. LOMBARDO: Yep.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any other locations
11 you're interested in, want to talk about?

12 MR. LOMBARDO: No.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Go ahead.

14 MR. LOMBARDO: I've got a statement here.
15 I'll just kind of paraphrase it. It's not so --

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: That'll be fine.

17 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

18 BY MR. LOMBARDO: I am Kevin Lombardo. I
19 purchased 88 acres in Forest 12 years ago and built
20 a house and I've lived here since. I'm not an
21 opponent of wind turbines per se. But I do oppose
22 the Highland Wind Farm in its proposed state. The
23 setbacks of 1,250 feet from a residence or 550 feet
24 from a property line are just way too close in my
25 opinion.

1 Now, since the turbine debate became
2 active in Forest, like a lot of other people, I went
3 and researched it. And I try to keep an open mind
4 on it because you can go online and you can look up
5 information; and you can say problems with wind
6 turbines in your search engine and you will get a
7 list of problems, or you can say what's great about
8 wind turbines and you will see what's great about
9 wind turbines.

10 There's tons of information out there.
11 There are people who will say they live by one and
12 it caused a lot of problems. There are people who
13 say they live by one, caused no problems. What
14 proves to me is that we don't know yet, especially
15 with turbines this size.

16 I searched to try to find where a
17 long-term study was done with this large of a
18 turbine, with this kind of an output, with this many
19 in one area and this close to residents. I really
20 couldn't find anything. It doesn't mean it doesn't
21 exist, but I couldn't find anything. Everything
22 that I find, everything that people point me to,
23 turbines are much smaller or they're much further
24 away.

25 Like I said, what that means to me is we

1 don't know. Now, I'm not an opponent, but I am a
2 proponent of a moratorium regarding the building of
3 the turbines in Forest. I'd rather see us act
4 responsibly, perform due diligence, and actually
5 make sure that these do not cause health problems.
6 And I know there is a lot of people who come up and
7 say we've got the studies now. Well, how long have
8 these large wind turbines been around? I mean,
9 there was a time when lead in paint was acceptable
10 or using asbestos was acceptable. Now, I'm not
11 saying that wind turbines are as harmful as this.
12 But wouldn't the responsible thing be to actually
13 wait, do the research, and make a positive,
14 definitive decision based on definitive proof?

15 I hear -- sometimes when I present that
16 argument, I hear the argument back and I heard it
17 earlier tonight that we need these now, we need to
18 solve an energy problem, we need turbines now, or
19 you know, this is a solution, we need to start
20 getting solutions implemented now. And my question
21 is, is if we need something so badly that we need to
22 just do it now and force it upon a number of
23 residents who don't want it or where the majority do
24 not want it, is this really the best place? I mean,
25 if you're going to make a bunch of people mad, then

1 you should get the best bang for your buck. Why do
2 it here? Is this a special place in Wisconsin that
3 is the most efficient, that somebody took a map of
4 Wisconsin and said this is the area, this is the
5 place we should do it at because this is where we're
6 going to get the best efficiency. My guess is no.

7 I think that the only thing special about
8 Forest is the fact that it wasn't under any county
9 authority as far as zoning, it was only local
10 government that handled zoning, which made it easy
11 to get the approval because there was a much smaller
12 audience that needed -- that you needed to get
13 approval for to get a wind farm implemented. So
14 just get some residents to host them, get the buy-in
15 of a small town board, and that's it. It was easy.
16 I think that's the reason that the proposal was
17 here. So when I hear things like we need to do
18 this, I don't understand why we need to put them
19 here, what's so special about this?

20 I heard some stuff before too, I guess I
21 heard it earlier, about you know how -- just for an
22 example, how Google has mandated that much of their
23 electricity needs to come from green, a certain
24 percentage. Obviously they don't say -- green does
25 not mean wind, you know, it's not classified that

1 way. It's all one thing. So they don't say wind or
2 solar. They just say green. And that's admirable,
3 but... Another thing to point out is if you go look
4 at Google's investment in green energy, the majority
5 of it is in solar power; but when they do invest in
6 wind farms, you take a good look at the wind farms
7 they invest in, they invested in one in the Atlantic
8 coast, in the ocean, it is not near people. They
9 invest in one in the Mojave Desert, there's no
10 people there. They invested in one in North Dakota.
11 Now, there's some people there, but it's rather
12 sparse.

13 I think that everyone here would love to
14 see a wind turbine farm where there's no people. I
15 mean, we don't -- we're not opposed to wind
16 turbines, we're opposed to them right next to our
17 houses. And the majority of the residents feel this
18 way. They're worried about their health and their
19 property values. And there is a lot of arguments
20 about property values; and all I can say is if there
21 is a turbine near your house, there is going to be
22 less people interested in your house as far as
23 purchasing it. Whether it's -- whether they have
24 valid concerns or not, there are going to be less
25 people interested in your house. The basic

1 economics say law of supply and demand, if less
2 people are interested, you cannot charge as much.
3 Your real market property value will not be as much.
4 You know, it will not be as high.

5 So there's a lot people who are worried
6 about it. And, you know, we say there is a
7 majority. Well, the proof of that, I guess the best
8 proof we can show is that in the election, there was
9 a recall election in February 2011. A few months
10 later in April 2011 there was a regular election.
11 In that election, all three town board seats were up
12 for election. When looking at the results, the
13 closest margin, the closest percentage ratio was 59
14 percent to 41 percent. The rest were in the 60 to
15 65 percent to 35 percent range. In these elections,
16 I mean, you say they're for town board seats, but
17 they're really -- they are about this issue. And I
18 think you can -- that proves that the majority of
19 people in this township are against this farm in its
20 current proposal.

21 So I guess that's it. My opinion is this
22 shouldn't be built until we know the actual effects
23 of this size turbine in this proximity to people.

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Well, thanks
25 very much.

1 (Witness excused.)

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Nicki Sunday.

3 NICKI SUNDAY, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: That's Sunday, S U N-
5 D A Y, 2839 County Road Q in Clear Lake?

6 MS. SUNDAY: Correct.

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And any other property
8 or do you want to point to a turbine location you're
9 concerned about?

10 MS. SUNDAY: No, they're all bad.

11 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

12 BY MS. SUNDAY: I'm a Forest resident, and
13 I live about seven-tenths of a mile from the nearest
14 turbine, and it's concerning to me no matter how far
15 you live from one in Forest Township.

16 I think that the evidence kind of follows
17 turbines to your health effects. You know, you look
18 at some of these farms, and some people it doesn't
19 effect and consider yourself lucky. You know, those
20 of you that it does affect, what do you do then?
21 You know, the studies say they're inconclusive. I'd
22 hate for Forest residents to be the ones to make the
23 studies conclusive.

24 I don't want to see it happen. I don't
25 want to -- you know, it's already hurt the township

1 enough that to have these health effects would be
2 devastating. And at that time, what do you do then?
3 They're here. You just don't take them down. It's
4 too late. I think that the studies need to be done
5 beforehand, before 41 500-foot turbines come to the
6 town and then there is nothing you can do about it.

7 You know, I'm also concerned with the
8 property value. There's lots of arguments on it, it
9 can go this way, it can go that way. But, you know,
10 I'm following Kevin's comments, common sense. You
11 know, you look out your window and you're surrounded
12 by wind turbines. There's not going to be the
13 people that want your home anymore. We've spent --
14 most of us have spent years building up -- you know,
15 it's the American dream, owning your home, putting
16 the equity and having something in the end. And to
17 have people come in and just take it right from you
18 and say, sorry, it's going to put money in my
19 pocket, let's go green, that is just not fair. You
20 know -- sorry. Pregnancy, a little emotional.

21 I just think that it needs to be really
22 considered. I think that they're too big, there are
23 too many, there is just -- there's just too much. I
24 have kids, I have one on the way, and the health
25 effects are scary. I mean, I'm scared to find out

1 what would happen. But if I sell my home, it
2 doesn't matter anyway because I'll have nothing to
3 go for anyway.

4 You know, there's so many problems with
5 these things, you could talk all day and all night.
6 And, you know, the effects on the animals, our
7 national bird, you know, and other creatures; and
8 we're going to throw it out the window for a
9 percentage markup on our go green scale? I mean,
10 that's preposterous. I mean, there's other ways to
11 go green besides putting up 41 500-foot turbines in
12 our backyards. You know, I don't get it. I don't
13 get how somebody could just say collateral damage,
14 sorry about your luck.

15 You know, it's just not fair. And I
16 just -- I'm asking you guys just to consider all the
17 stuff and consider the people and consider if it was
18 your families and just vote no. I just -- there is
19 a way to go green, and this is not it. There's
20 other ways, there's other things we can do. I
21 understand the need. I'm not against turbines in
22 general. I'm just against 500-foot 41 in my
23 backyard. You know, everywhere you look. And
24 people say, oh, it's not going to be as bad. I
25 don't think people understand how bad it's going to

1 be. I mean, these things are like skyscrapers and
2 we're going to have 41 of them. In a rural town,
3 agricultural. And you can claim agricultural. They
4 are not agricultural. I mean, it's not going to
5 give me any food. It's not going to give me -- you
6 know, I mean, harness the wind I just think is a
7 great idea. But I don't believe this is the right
8 way to go about it.

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, ma'am.

10 (Witness excused.)

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Nancy Wilson. W I L-
12 S O N.

13 NANCY WILSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

14 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I have your address
15 2971 --

16 MS. WILSON: State Road.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: State Road. Okay.
18 Yeah, I should have known that. 64, Emerald. And
19 besides that, any other properties you want to point
20 to, any turbine locations you're concerned about?

21 MS. WILSON: No.

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Go ahead.

23 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

24 BY MS. WILSON: I just want to say I'm
25 very concerned about this project. We have rights

1 that were not considered by the wind developer. We
2 weren't really given a choice or consideration by
3 how the project came about. We just weren't
4 included. And basically our rights were taken away.
5 And I just really feel that, as has been shown in
6 other wind farm projects, that I'm -- that property
7 values are going to go down. You know, like others
8 have stated, I'm just very concerned that everything
9 that we've worked for, everything that we've put
10 into our properties is -- it's just going to render
11 our properties useless.

12 I mean, we're going to be -- you're
13 talking about stray voltage, you're talking about
14 ice throw-off of these things. Obviously the hazard
15 of fire. And I realize that there's fire
16 suppression systems within the turbines, but they
17 also put off toxic fumes for miles.

18 So when you're talking about public
19 safety, these are very serious issues that can't be
20 taken lightly and can't be brushed past as just
21 saying, well, this happens in other wind farms.
22 Well, we don't want that in our community. There's
23 too many people here that it affects. There's over
24 650 people within the footprint of the project that
25 this is going to affect, and everybody is going to

1 share these effects. It's going to be, you know,
2 spread throughout this community that there's going
3 to be property losses and livestock losses. And I
4 think, as has been shown in other projects, people
5 are going to have to abandon their homes.

6 And I think it's sad that this was done
7 really without our consent, without our knowledge
8 and without our opinion. So I just want to say I'm
9 opposed, and I hope you consider what the majority
10 of the people here are saying.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks very much.

12 (Witness excused.)

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. It's Mark and
14 Audrey Maes, I guess, M A E S. We can take either
15 one. They left? Well, they have a written comment
16 here as well. So we'll put that in the written
17 comments.

18 Okay. John Strom, am I saying that right?
19 Or is it -- are you there? Or is it Storm? Strom?
20 Okay. Thanks. It's S T R O M.

21 MR. STROM: S T R O M.

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks.

23 MR. STROM: I have a statement.

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Great. Thanks.

25 JOHN STROM, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I have you here living
2 at -- your mailing address is 3159 200th Avenue in
3 Glenwood?

4 MR. STROM: Glenwood City.

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Yes. And are there any
6 other locations, properties or turbine locations you
7 want to point out?

8 MR. STROM: There's turbine locations just
9 to the north of our property, two of them, I
10 believe.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

12 MR. STROM: And we have no other property.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Go ahead.

14 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

15 BY MR. STROM: My name is John Strom. I
16 live in the Town of Forest, St. Croix County,
17 Wisconsin. I live within the proposed Highland Wind
18 Farm project area. There are many voices providing
19 testimony, comment and opinion from many
20 perspectives. However, perhaps the most important
21 voices are the ones from the 600-some residents of
22 Forest.

23 You may have observed some protests
24 regarding this proposed project. The reason for
25 protest is their voices are hard to hear. Some are

1 afraid to speak out, some have been harassed or
2 bullied. The process has rules and steps that
3 appear to favor only one side. Beginning with
4 insufficient setback and, finally, in providing
5 expert witness compensation for just one side.

6 The issue of significant loss of property
7 value is a major concern. The families and
8 residents of Forest have a significant investment in
9 time, money, blood, sweat, tears, and hard work in
10 their homes and property. For most working
11 families, the home and property is the major or only
12 investment for retirement. To have a proposed
13 project turn an agricultural and residential area
14 into an industrial project area will wipe out or
15 severely degrade the value. Since the proposed
16 project area has many small parcels and many
17 residents, the impact is elevated.

18 In similar situations elsewhere, real
19 estate firms were loathed to even list the
20 properties because of the immediate negative buyer
21 response. Some families have been forced to sell at
22 a huge loss or abandon property because of tax or
23 decommission cost. This negative financial impact
24 has already happened around the country and even in
25 Brown County, Wisconsin.

1 In a fair business project, a great wind
2 location would be selected and properties would be
3 purchased at prior market value. Neither is the
4 case here.

5 The new bridge between Minnesota and
6 Wisconsin at Stillwater represents a huge
7 opportunity for residential growth and development.
8 That opportunity will be lost to this part of
9 Wisconsin and the Town of Forest property owners
10 with this kind of a project. It is frightening to
11 observe an industrial project which sweeps aside the
12 property rights of so many in order to provide rich
13 rewards for so few and to have so many tax dollars
14 help do it.

15 This proposed project is not a public
16 convenience or necessity. We respectfully request
17 that the Public Service Commission deny the Highland
18 Wind Farm proposed project. Thank you.

19 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

20 (Witness excused.)

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. You might have
22 to help me out on this one, it's Brad Hassel?

23 MR. TRAASETH: Traaseth, right?

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Yeah, okay. We'll see.
25 You're at --

1 MR. TRAASETH: 938 Monette Avenue.

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Monette Avenue, okay.

3 Excellent.

4 BRADLEY TRAASETH, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Spell your name for us.

6 MR. TRAASETH: B R A D L E Y, T R A A S E -
7 T H.

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: 938.

9 MR. TRAASETH: Monette.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: In what town?

11 MR. TRAASETH: New Richmond.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Great.

13 Okay. And in terms of this project, any particular
14 property location?

15 MR. TRAASETH: No. No. Not here.

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right.

17 MR. TRAASETH: I wish I did.

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Go ahead.

19 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

20 BY MR. TRAASETH: I wish I did, though.

21 First of all, I'm an industrial electrician, and
22 I've built hundreds of wind towers. And I'm also a
23 single father. I lost my wife on May 2nd, and I had
24 to quit working on the road.

25 Every day that you get up in the morning,

1 what's the first thing you do besides probably go to
2 the bathroom? You hit that light switch and you got
3 power going to your light. Where do you get that
4 power from? Nobody cares, nobody knows. Probably
5 some other wind tower or power plant somewhere else.

6 We're all Americans. We need to be on our
7 own. We need to make our own energy. We can't be
8 dependent on other people. And we all need to do
9 our part to do that because when you hit your light
10 switch in the morning and you guys -- some of you
11 guys are opposed to it, and I respect your opinions,
12 everybody, and everybody's being very good tonight
13 because there's a lot of -- I know there's a lot of
14 tension between a lot of people that -- knowing
15 people for years here.

16 But, like I say, every time you hit that
17 light switch, that energy is coming from somewhere.
18 It might be Iowa, might be California, because I've
19 done wind towers in Iowa, I've done them in
20 Minnesota, I've done them in California down by
21 San Diego. And just because you're putting a wind
22 tower up here and the energy is going somewhere
23 else, you're still helping America be green. And
24 green is good, you know; and I don't want to get all
25 caught up in green, but being an industrial

1 electrician, I guess I'm a little bit biased, you
2 know. And I'm probably a little bit biased because
3 I would like to probably have a job here, you know.
4 I gotta support three children, and I mean I -- it's
5 a tough subject on both ends of the spectrum; and I
6 respect everybody's opinion, yours too, you know.

7 But when you go to milk your cows in the
8 morning or whatever you have, you hit your power,
9 and that power is coming from somewhere, you know.
10 It might not be here, but it's coming from somewhere
11 in America. And those people are being affected
12 just like you guys are going to be affected here
13 also.

14 Gosh, I don't want to rub anybody the
15 wrong way; but I think we all need to do our part as
16 Americans to support us or them in the other states,
17 wherever we are. So I could probably go on for
18 days, but I think I said my peace, and I hope that
19 you guys all come to an understanding here. And if
20 they have them or if they don't have them, I hope
21 that you guys can all mend the heartaches that you
22 guys had some friendships with for a long time who
23 have different decisions or thoughts than you have.
24 So that's all I got to say.

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Thanks very

1 much.

2 MR. TRAASETH: Thank you.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Jolee Buhr,
5 B U H R. Jolee, J O L E E.

6 JOLEE BUHR, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And your mailing
8 address, 3116 County Road Q in Clear Lake?

9 MS. BUHR: Yep.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any other properties or
11 turbine locations you need to talk about?

12 MS. BUHR: No. We're in the middle of
13 turbines, but I'll talk about that in here.

14 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Go ahead.

15 MS. BUHR: I'm really nervous.

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Take your
17 time. We're all here to listen.

18 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

19 BY MS. BUHR: As we were deciding what we
20 would include in our statement, several ideas ran
21 through our minds. We thought we could write about
22 statistics and the lack of studies completed --

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay, ma'am. Slow down
24 a little. Her fingers are going to burn off.

25 MS. BUHR: (Continuing) -- negative

1 environmental impacts that our township has very
2 clear numbers that show the majority are not in
3 favor, that Emerging Energies has been dishonest,
4 and the list goes on.

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Slower. Take a deep
6 breath. There you go.

7 MS. BUHR: But we decided to go a
8 different route. We decided to focus on how this
9 will specifically impact our family, a topic very
10 near and dear to our hearts.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Just take a
12 break between paragraphs. No, come on, this isn't
13 is easy thing to do.

14 MS. BUHR: We moved here in 2007 to be in
15 the country, to live quietly and peacefully,
16 intending to the spend of rest of our lives here and
17 raise our children. We currently have two sons, age
18 six and four. Without going into too much personal
19 detail, a member of our family suffers from a mental
20 health issue, one which I will choose not to
21 divulge. His symptoms include extreme
22 hypersensitivity to sound and sleep disturbance. He
23 already suffers from this. To think his reaction to
24 these could possibly get worse is a nightmare.

25 This is a daily struggle in our house.

1 The lack of sleep, which he already suffers from,
2 amplifies it. Our family has in place a daily
3 structure to help with this. There is not much more
4 we could put in place to help.

5 Wind turbines could possibly make things
6 worse for him. Seeing your own child suffer as you
7 helplessly watch is the worst thing a parent can
8 experience. Even though this is only a possibility,
9 the thought of it becoming a reality tears at my
10 heart. I also suffer from migraines. I've been
11 hospitalized twice in the last four years. The last
12 one included a helicopter ride and a two-day stay at
13 Regent. They leave me visionless and my limbs
14 become numb. I already spend enough of my time with
15 migraines. Spending more because of the possible
16 effect of turbines is unfathomable. Again, erecting
17 these turbines with the possible risk is not
18 something I would want to make a bet on.

19 In the research we have done on turbine
20 studies, many of them cite insufficient evidence
21 when referring to a linkage between wind turbines
22 and negative health effects. This does not mean it
23 does not exist, although some interpret it as that.
24 It means that not enough studies have been done to
25 be accurate. This is not something we are willing

1 to roll the dice on.

2 Our most important role in life is being
3 parents. Our job includes protecting our children,
4 providing for them, being good role models, helping
5 them grow, and giving them skills to be productive
6 members of society, to name a few. I will not
7 chance their well-being for someone else's pocketful
8 of green.

9 I urge you to ask yourself that same
10 question and attempt to see the situation from this
11 perspective, and to go a step further, perhaps your
12 children do suffer from health issues related to the
13 turbines. We are literally stuck. It would be
14 unethical for us to sell our residence so someone
15 else can inherit these possible conditions. Our
16 property value will greatly depreciate. We are
17 stuck. We have worked way too hard to get where we
18 are today to risk this.

19 As a government entity, the PSC has an
20 obligation to serve and protect. If health issues
21 are even a remote possibility, this is not
22 protecting us. In the PSC's mission statement
23 directly off the website, it states that they are an
24 independent regulatory agency dedicated to serving
25 the public interest. Based on the numbers of

1 non-supporters in Forest Township, it would not be
2 in the public interest to erect these industrial
3 wind turbines.

4 At our residence, we will be within
5 six-tenths of a mile of four turbines, possibly five
6 if the alternative site is utilized. The closest
7 one sitting 1,430 feet away will be the view from
8 our front window. We will be surrounded by these
9 structures. I enjoy our landscape.

10 Do not underestimate the people's
11 concerns, including ours, of the physical existence.
12 We have a beautiful landscape. This should be taken
13 into consideration and not deemed unimportant. This
14 is not simply an annoyance. It is a personal
15 opinion of the majority of our township that these
16 will destroy and litter our landscape. Physical
17 appearance matters to everyone, whether it is the
18 color of the siding you choose for your home or the
19 size jeans you wear. Not to mention it will greatly
20 impact our home's resale value, again, because
21 physical appearance matters.

22 The bottom line is we don't know for
23 certain if and what the side effects of turbines are
24 because enough research has not been done. Please,
25 meet us in the middle and allow time for more

1 studies to be completed before putting the residents
2 in jeopardy. Life is precious. Please side with
3 the many residents opposed to wind turbines. Our
4 well-being is in your hands. So please consider us
5 when making this critical decision.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, ma'am.

7 (Discussion off the record.)

8 (Witness excused.)

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. So for the
10 record, Jolee Buhr handed me her Survey
11 Questionnaire Forest Resident Information and Health
12 Survey, dated September 20th. Okay. And it's --
13 she administered the questionnaire and the
14 questionnaires of Dustin Magee at her residence. So
15 that's five pages altogether.

16 Okay. Kevin Salseg, S A L S E G.

17 KEVIN SALSEG, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: You're at 2969 210th
19 Avenue in Emerald?

20 MR. SALSEG: Yes.

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any other properties or
22 turbine location you want to point out?

23 MR. SALSEG: Just number 18 which is
24 southeast from us and then ten more that are
25 surrounding us.

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Great. Thanks.

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. SALSEG: I kind of want to start
4 out by saying with all the wind jobs that they keep
5 talking about that have been coming in, can you
6 really count them as good employment opportunities
7 or are these just all temporary? Wind developer
8 Emerging Energy keeps telling us about all these
9 jobs, but what they don't tell us is there's only
10 going to be six, seven or maybe eight that are
11 actually permanent. And those might not even belong
12 to residents at Forest at all. So, I mean, can you
13 really consider these as good employment
14 opportunities for people who are laid off or were
15 looking for jobs in general, or would you just
16 consider them a temporary fix to brighten up what is
17 a very dark situation, actually?

18 Another thing that they keep promising us
19 is a decent amount of money for the township,
20 roughly \$170,000 a year, roughly, and a little bit
21 less than that for participating landowners, and
22 basically nothing for nonparticipating landowners
23 who are going to have to deal with these industrial
24 scale turbines. Would this be more masked as a good
25 gesture towards the participating and

1 nonparticipating landowners, or do you really think
2 these dollars would cover the property damages that
3 it's going to have towards our houses and
4 livestock?

5 Most of us -- oh, not most of us, but some
6 of us have made our homes here and others of us have
7 lived here our whole lives, well, at least in my
8 case all that I can remember. Do you really think
9 that's fair for them to take this away from us? Our
10 property values.

11 They also say that wind turbines are one
12 of the best forms of renewable green energy, green
13 energy, and everyone tends to believe that. But for
14 that to be somewhat true, they would have to be
15 rotating 24 hours a day seven days a week 365 days a
16 year as fast as they possibly can. I mean, to take
17 all the -- to achieve all the energy. But we all
18 know that there's days when the wind doesn't blow,
19 and then we all know that the other days the wind
20 isn't blowing as fast as it possibly can. So, I
21 mean, let's just say that the wind did blow as hard
22 as it could all the time. Even then there are forms
23 of green, renewable energy that are much more
24 efficient. A few examples, hydroelectricity,
25 radiant energy, geothermal power, biomass fuel.

1 There's solar. There's many, many more. And I
2 don't really think I need to go down that whole list
3 of other types of renewable and green energy.

4 A lot of people also say that it's going
5 to decrease our need for foreign oil and other
6 fossil fuels such as coal. The amount of energy
7 wind turbines would produce wouldn't even begin to
8 put a scratch in the amount of coal that we would
9 still need to consume. Because that is by far one
10 of our main sources of energy. And it's just not
11 going to put that much of a scratch in it.

12 And another thing that keeps being thrown
13 out there is foreign oil. That wouldn't -- wind
14 turbines wouldn't even make any difference in our
15 consumption of foreign oil given the fact that wind
16 doesn't power our cars or heat our houses. So -- I
17 mean, as nice as that would be.

18 Another thing on this list would be health
19 problems. A lot of people say that there's no
20 scientific grounds to back up these health problems,
21 and a lot of other people say that other people are
22 making it up or they don't exist at all. Well,
23 let's just all take a moment and just believe that
24 for a second, that there is no scientific grounds
25 behind these health problems. Then you'd have to

1 agree with the statement that, well, because there
2 isn't any scientific grounds to why we dream,
3 dreaming doesn't exist. Okay. Also along that line
4 of logic, that because there's no scientific grounds
5 to let's say God, everybody would have to believe
6 that God doesn't exist because there is no
7 scientific explanation for that.

8 So, I mean, how about we all just have
9 some faith and believe these people who are actually
10 physically experiencing these health problems
11 because, just like God, these health risks are very,
12 very real.

13 I love my home. I've lived here my whole
14 life. And, as I said before, all my life that I can
15 remember. But more importantly, this is everything
16 that my parents have. Every dime that they own is
17 invested here, and every dime that I will one day
18 inherit is also invested here. I don't think that's
19 fair that we have to lose all that so Emerging
20 Energies can turn a cruel profit. That's all I have
21 to say.

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thanks very
23 much.

24 MR. SALSEG: Thank you.

25 (Witness excused.)

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. It's 7:30.
2 I think we're going to take about a ten-minute
3 break. So be back at 20 to 8. Thanks.

4 (Recess taken from 7:20 to 7:40 p.m.)

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let's get on the
6 record. I'd like to call Nicole Miller, M I L L E R.

7 NICOLE MILLER, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. And you're
9 at 2948 Highway 64, Glenwood City?

10 MS. MILLER: I am.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And any other
12 properties or turbine locations you want to talk
13 about?

14 MS. MILLER: I don't know the number of
15 the turbines, but we do have six of them surrounding
16 our farm. There's two on the south side of our
17 house will be -- and two proposed on the west side,
18 and then two on the north.

19 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Go ahead.

20 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

21 BY MS. MILLER: All right. Well, I'm
22 Nicole Miller. My husband, Josh, and I live on the
23 dairy farm with his parents and our son, Dillon, and
24 we have another one on the way. He's lived there
25 his entire life, and our plans are we're going to

1 take the farm over and keep the family tradition
2 going. We are very concerned about this project,
3 how it's gone down, and the effects that the
4 turbines could have on us.

5 Starting off, the illegal actions that
6 were taken by the former town board was just
7 rightfully unlawful. The conflict of interest with
8 each board member, the secret meetings, the illegal
9 way Emerging Energies got on the town board
10 meetings. And the project of that size, I mean, why
11 were we never contacted? Why did no one ever come
12 to us? We're farmers in the township. Why didn't
13 you guys come to us and say, hey, do you guys --
14 would you guys like these -- you know, it's a good
15 farming opportunity.

16 But no one ever talked to us until
17 actually my brother-in-law came over one night and
18 came over with a map. And that's the first we had
19 heard about it. So we started coming to meetings
20 then; and we tried asking questions, we tried asking
21 a lot of questions, and we never got any answers.
22 And -- or we got the same answer: We don't know.
23 We don't know. We talked -- you know, tried asking
24 all the guys from Emerging Energies, even our town
25 board members, they couldn't answer, they couldn't

1 tell us.

2 To us that was a little shady. With a
3 size that big, you would think that everyone in the
4 township would have been contacted, let them know
5 what was going on, the impacts it could have, but
6 that was never done.

7 You know, we voted our -- the town board
8 on so that they would have the town's best interest
9 in hand -- in heart. And obviously they didn't.
10 They had a one-track mind and that was so that they
11 could gain financially from this.

12 And wind energy has not been proven to be
13 able to support itself. If it could, why is it
14 still needing subsidies to run? Businesses can't
15 run if they don't have any money. No one is there
16 to hand them it left and right. It's been -- you
17 know, I'm not sure how long wind energy has been up;
18 but if it's still needing money for this, then
19 obviously it's not a good thing.

20 It just makes no sense financially to keep
21 bringing the economy down with our tax dollars
22 and -- just to keep it afloat. That makes no sense.
23 No business can run like that. That's common sense.
24 We want to know how our property values are going to
25 be conflicted and how much they're going to go down.

1 My husband's parents, they have that farm so that
2 they could retire on. They're getting close to
3 retirement age. What happens if they -- these go up
4 and come to find out they want to go and retire and
5 say, well, sorry, but your property value has been
6 cut in half, no one wants it. Well, you know,
7 that's what they were looking forward to, that
8 they've worked all their lives for and have someone
9 come in and take that away without them even having
10 a say? That's irresponsible, very. It's not fair.

11 You know, we live on the farm. We're
12 going to take the farm over. I don't remember
13 anything being in the application, anything about
14 how they're going to protect domestic animals
15 including our dairy cattle. We have around 150
16 head. No one from Emerging Energies, LLC, has ever
17 come out to the farm to find out how many cattle we
18 have, telling us, you know, that there could be
19 stray voltage that could happen. We've asked them
20 about it many times, and all they say is, well, we
21 have to follow this and this; but they never have
22 given an answer for us saying, yeah, we're going to
23 try and help protect you from that.

24 So let's say our cattle start -- they
25 don't produce milk. They get mastitis. They go

1 down, kill cows. We bring them in the barn, so
2 they're in the barn most of the year. And obviously
3 that's where electrical pollution is going to affect
4 them. So who's going to come up with a cost of the
5 money that we lose until that problem is taken care
6 of?

7 We shouldn't have to suffer financially
8 because we have no control over that. We need to
9 figure out who's going to make up the money for
10 that. And from listening to the technical hearings
11 in Madison the last couple days, it sure as heck
12 doesn't sound like Emerging Energies will take any
13 type of responsibilities for that. So then who's
14 going to step in and take responsibilities for our
15 losses that we never had a say in until now, which
16 we shouldn't even be here because if we had a say in
17 it when we were supposed to, the legal steps we
18 should have taken, we wouldn't even be here.

19 The health issues from these turbines is
20 very scary to think about. I'm here kind of
21 speaking for my husband's parents too. And between
22 us all, we have our fair share of some health
23 issues. They consist of Parkinson's disease that
24 was just newly diagnosed, epilepsy seizure disorder,
25 depression, anxiety, anxiety attacks, high blood

1 pressure, and insomnia. There's so many questions
2 still out there about why the turbines are causing
3 these health issues; and not everyone, you know, as
4 the people have said before, not everyone's affected
5 the same way by them.

6 So there's not enough -- there is still
7 not enough studies to know how it's going to affect
8 every person. So let's say my seizure disorder acts
9 up because I have them, are they going to come in,
10 are they going to turn the turbines off around us
11 then? I mean, you're not going to be able to live
12 there. So who's going to help pay the healthcare
13 cost when our healthcare skyrockets?

14 We have our kids we're going to -- you
15 know, we have a two-year old son and we have one on
16 the way. And I haven't read much at all about how
17 children are affected. Children to me are more
18 susceptible to a lot of this stuff than we are. And
19 if our children are negatively affected, well,
20 there's trouble sleeping, trouble concentrating, or
21 reading a book. And what if they start falling
22 behind in school because some of this stuff is going
23 on? Who knows, maybe there's stray voltage while
24 we're down in the barn. The kids are going to be
25 down in the barn with us. You know, it's slowly

1 going to creep up on us. And just to think of them
2 being affected by this just scares the heck out of
3 us.

4 Because there's -- we have to record it
5 when it happens to us? That doesn't seem fair.
6 Yeah, we will, of course we'll record our health
7 issues and stuff. But to hear that these people
8 have had to move out of their homes because nothing
9 has been done to help them? That's ridiculous. We
10 shouldn't be forced out of our homes. No one should
11 have to leave their homes because of energy that's
12 supposed to be helping us and, instead, it's hurting
13 us.

14 We need more studies, especially with this
15 size of industrial turbine this close to people's
16 residences. We don't deserve to be guinea pigs for
17 this project. It's not fair, no one should ever
18 have to be, unfortunately, but they are.

19 We're outside a lot. I looked at the map
20 again before I came in, and there's a turbine
21 that's -- it doesn't have the -- where the land
22 starts and ends, but there's one that's got to be
23 just not much farther than a thousand feet from our
24 fence line. Now, we have a trail that goes back
25 there we ride four-wheelers with, we walk and we go

1 feed the deer. And, you know, it scares us to think
2 that the PSC is going to approve this and allow us
3 to be within 1,500 feet of this thing, you know,
4 playing around, you know, whether the kids are back
5 there, when they have no idea what it's going to do.
6 If it could tip over, I mean parts fly. The ice
7 throw. I mean, all this stuff. There's -- it's not
8 safe.

9 There's no reason why we shouldn't be able
10 to use our land so someone else can gain from it
11 financially. What if we want to add onto our farm?
12 What if we wanted to build a new barn? I guess
13 there's restrictions on how tall of buildings we can
14 put on our property. That's not fair. That's not
15 ethical.

16 If the PSC approves this, they're telling
17 me it's safe to send our kids out there to play and
18 that, yeah, there's a possibility that they could
19 get hurt, which with me that doesn't stand. They
20 say they're going to mitigate things, you know,
21 close the drapes or put trees up. Come on, common
22 sense. There is nothing tall enough that's going to
23 block them. We love to see outside. That's why we
24 live where we do. We don't want our blinds shut all
25 day long. With that comes depression, you lose your

1 vitamin D in your body. I mean, it's not fair
2 whatsoever.

3 And we don't -- we do not support the
4 irresponsible siting that has been conducted in this
5 project. And we ask the PSC to take into serious
6 consideration the people of Forest and put yourself
7 in our shoes, make an easy, common sense decision
8 that this will bring nothing but turmoil to our
9 project. Don't approve the unknown and let us
10 suffer to find out what will come of these turbines.

11 And I also have our health studies and
12 it's for -- we both live at 2948 Highway 64.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. All right.

14 MS. MILLER: I would like to put those on,
15 and I know it's in our statements too.

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let me just check what
17 we have here so we know. So there's just the two or
18 is there more?

19 MS. MILLER: No, just the two. So that's
20 her and her husband.

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: So we have a health
22 survey administered by Nicole Miller dated
23 September 28th, and that's five pages; and the same
24 survey administered by Annette Miller, September
25 29th, five pages as well. Thanks very much.

1 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

2 (Witness excused.)

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Now we have Pat,
4 looks like Scep -- Scepurek.

5 MR. SCEPUREK: That's me.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. You know
7 who you are.

8 MS. KUSCIENKO: You got Kuscienko right.

9 MR. SCEPUREK: Hello, sir. I'm Pat
10 Scepurek. Glad to meet you.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Glad you understood.
12 All right.

13 PAT SCEPUREK, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

14 EXAMINER NEWMARK: So spell your name for
15 us and --

16 MR. SCEPUREK: Okay. First name, Patrick,
17 okay, R., Scepurek, S C E P U R E K.

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And you're at 2308
19 County Road P?

20 MR. SCEPUREK: Yes.

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: At Clear Lake,
22 Wisconsin?

23 MR. SCEPUREK: Yes.

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any other property
25 you're concerned about or turbine location?

1 MR. SCEPUREK: No. This is just my
2 residence and my farm.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Go ahead.

4 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

5 BY MR. SCEPUREK: Okay. Like I told you,
6 my name is Pat Scephurek. My wife and I own a farm
7 at 2308 County Road P. And we have a Clear Lake
8 address, but we are in St. Croix County and Forest
9 Township.

10 And one of the things that concerns me is
11 of all the information and the comments that are
12 being portrayed -- and I'll give you an example.
13 Much of the testimony in the environmental
14 assessment report done by the PSC states -- or
15 starts, I'm sorry, with Highland states, Highland
16 says, as far as Highland, according to Highland.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Sir, the audience would
18 love to hear you.

19 FROM THE AUDIENCE: I can't hear you in
20 the back.

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Speak a little louder.

22 MR. SCEPUREK: Do you want me to start at
23 the beginning?

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let's continue on.
25 Just be a little louder.

1 MR. SCEPUREK: Okay. Much of the
2 testimony that -- in the environmental assessment
3 report done by the PSC starts off with statements
4 like Highland says, as far as Highland, according to
5 Highland. It appears the only information being
6 considered is coming from Highland Wind. This
7 project is owned by Emerging Energies, and that's
8 the company behind the Highland Wind farm. And I
9 can't remember the exact date, but they came to
10 Forest Township and started this project basically
11 in secrecy and, in my opinion, with deception,
12 making a lot of unbelievable claims and promises to
13 a certain select few folks.

14 Okay. When the project and the scope of
15 it was discovered and brought out in the open for
16 all the residents to see, we had a recall election.
17 And that's how I got involved with the process. It
18 was quite brief as far as our communications with
19 Emerging Energies. They came to a town board
20 meeting after we rescinded the right-of-way permits
21 and the building permits and claimed that they have
22 the right to sue the township.

23 A short while later, the township was sued
24 for \$25 million. And what it amounted to was they
25 wanted us to make -- they wanted to make us do

1 business with them their way. So what happens now
2 is since that time, our local government, which is
3 all of us here in this room -- and I want to add one
4 thing, I'm so proud of the residents of Forest that
5 at least now we've come together and understand what
6 it means to have our American way of life. And so
7 this is our cornerstone. Each and every one of us
8 is entitled to an opinion, each and every one of us
9 is entitled to be heard and no matter what side of
10 this issue you're on. So we also should have the
11 voice and the -- we all should be in control of our
12 destiny at this level.

13 So now after saying all of that, now it's
14 time for the Town of Forest to speak. First of all,
15 the Town of Forest says no commercial or industrial
16 development except in the hamlet of Forest, see our
17 comprehensive plan. Two, according to the Town of
18 Forest, all issues affecting the residents will go
19 through the properly notified meetings of the
20 planning commission, which is open to the public,
21 and then the plan commission will review, make
22 proper changes, and recommend to the town board a
23 course of action. Three, the Town of Forest says
24 the town board meetings are properly noticed, the
25 agenda is posted, with any changes made posted 24

1 hours in advance. Changes will not be made or items
2 not be added at or during the meetings.

3 Now, this town board member states, the
4 Town of Forest encourages Emerging Energies,
5 Mr. Mundinger, Mr. Ricosi, to contact the town
6 clerk, get on the agenda, openly address the town
7 board at any properly noticed town board meeting
8 which is open to the public on all matters and
9 issues that are in question.

10 As I looked at this situation, for the
11 life of me, I cannot figure out why Emerging
12 Energies is still here. Any sane company would pick
13 up and leave when the true nature of their plans and
14 the problems that arise are discovered. When they
15 came up against all this resistance, they must
16 realize that the town is not wholeheartedly behind
17 it. There are a few dozen people that support this
18 project, and there's a few hundred people that do
19 not support this project.

20 Any legitimate company would set up shop
21 where they would be welcome. And my only question
22 is, could it be they're not welcome anywhere? They
23 come in, they use all these computer projections and
24 all these predictions on impacts; but the actual
25 outcome may not be or probably isn't as predicted.

1 They promise mitigation. When the project is sold,
2 they no longer own it and it's not their concern at
3 that time. So my only other question is could there
4 be another plan, like a large utility fronting an
5 independent power producer to intentionally bypass
6 all the rules and regulations which are in place to
7 protect us, the public.

8 So many questions left unanswered. So
9 much deception still in place. No wonder so many
10 people here don't believe what Emerging Energies has
11 to say.

12 A long time ago when I was in the army,
13 and this is many years ago, I took an oath as an
14 American. To protect this nation and our way of
15 life against all force. I never realized that the
16 force could come from within our own borders. Some
17 of our own people harming others within our own
18 nation, and that's what threatens our way of life.
19 You know, we open our town board meetings and recite
20 the Pledge of Allegiance. And many of us in this
21 room have been doing that for decades, 40, 50, 60
22 years. And it ends with with liberty and justice
23 for all. And one of the reasons I'm sitting here is
24 I really hope that these have not become hollow
25 words.

1 You know, I've lived my whole life seeking
2 fairness. I believe everyone should be offered same
3 and equal opportunities. I don't like people being
4 taken advantage of just because they can be taken
5 advantage of. And I was taught that when you go
6 through life, there are going to be those who didn't
7 get the opportunities you did, who didn't find the
8 breaks that you found, and also who are not as
9 fortunate as you are. So now it's your
10 responsibility to speak up when you see this and
11 make all -- and do all you can do to make the
12 situation right.

13 So now the Town of Forest is being taken
14 advantage of by the greedy, by the slick-talking, by
15 those who have more knowledge of laws, rules and
16 regulations than we do. And they know how to use
17 what they've learned to take advantage of others in
18 this process.

19 It's up to you, the PSC, to make this
20 situation right. Approximately 70 percent of the
21 people in the Town of Forest do not want an
22 industrial commercial development here in this
23 township. The way the project was presented was
24 basically unethical and illegal. So the only decent
25 and logical choice is to deny the approval of the

1 Highland Wind Farm and have the State Attorney
2 General look into Emerging Energies' business
3 practices.

4 Now, in closing, one day I'm going to die;
5 one day all the people in this room are going to
6 die. One day the people on the PSC are going to
7 die. And I firmly believe in that moment in time,
8 we'll be in front of our creator giving account for
9 what we did and what we did not do, both good and
10 bad, both ethical and not, and what we did to help
11 our fellow man and what we did to harm them.

12 So I hope and pray that you can say at
13 that time that you did what was right for Forest.
14 Deny this project, protect us from the predators in
15 this business world that take advantage and harm
16 people. That's all I have.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thank you very
18 much.

19 (Witness excused.)

20 (Applause.)

21 FROM THE AUDIENCE: Sorry about that.

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: You get one exception.
23 All right. Mrs. Swanepoel. Am I getting that last
24 name?

25 MS. SWANEPOEL: Swanepoel.

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Sorry about that.

2 MS. SWANEPOEL: It's Lorelei Swanepoel.

3 LORELEI SWANEPOEL, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: State your name.

5 MS. SWANEPOEL: Lorelei Swanepoel.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. And that's

7 S W A N E P O L E?

8 MS. SWANEPOEL: P O E L.

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Yes. O E L. Right.

10 And that's 2915 210th Avenue, Glenwood City?

11 MS. SWANEPOEL: Yes.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And any other address
13 or particular turbine location you have an interest
14 or concern about?

15 MS. SWANEPOEL: We have four to five
16 turbines within a mile of our home.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

18 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

19 BY MS. SWANEPOEL: Okay. And I want to
20 start out with, I have a couple of pictures here.
21 This one was on Mr. Munding's testimony. It shows
22 children going down a path next to a cornfield. I
23 have another picture here, authorized personnel
24 only, Shirley Project, LLC. Danger, flying or
25 falling items from turbines can cause serious death

1 or injury. I thought that was very interesting when
2 I was over there.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: So you took the picture
4 in Shirley? You said you went over there?

5 MS. SWANEPOEL: Yes, I did. Do you want
6 these?

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Yeah, I'll need those.

8 MS. SWANEPOEL: Good evening, Your Honor.
9 My name is Lorelei Swanepoel, 2915 210th Avenue,
10 Glenwood City, Wisconsin, 54013. My husband, David,
11 and I have each lived in Forest Township for over 60
12 years. We bought our farm 40 years ago this month.
13 It is at a midway point between where we each grew
14 up. We have raised five children on this farm.

15 I was on the plan commission when the
16 Emerging Energies salesmen first came to town. At
17 the very first plan commission meeting, they became
18 pushy. When they felt that we had discussed their
19 request for a conditional use permit for a wind
20 measuring tower long enough, salesman Osterberg
21 stepped up and said, come on, all we want is a
22 conditional use permit. That was red flag number
23 one for me.

24 The next red flag came at a plan
25 commission meeting when farmers who might be

1 interested in leasing their land for turbines had
2 been contacted. As I listened to Emerging Energies,
3 LLC, answer questions, I heard no question that
4 should have evoked the belligerent response that we
5 received from salesman Ricosi. Salesman Osterberg
6 quickly stepped up to smooth over the discussion.

7 At that point, I suggested to the former
8 leadership that the plan commission take time to
9 visit areas with turbines and learn from communities
10 with this experience before we became too involved.
11 At least twice I was told when the Shirley project
12 is up and running, there will be a bus tour. In
13 hindsight, I feel this is what our former board had
14 been told.

15 It was at this point that I felt our
16 former board had no intention of learning the pros
17 and cons. I felt it was time for me to get off the
18 plan commission. I wasn't against turbines at this
19 point. I was against the pushiness and the
20 belligerence I observed in the salesmen. Not one
21 person was honest with me about what was going on in
22 individual homes or backyards. Only those involved
23 in these discussions knew the true scope and size of
24 the proposed project.

25 If a turbine issue was brought up at a

1 gathering and I expressed any concern, the subject
2 was immediately changed. As much as Emerging
3 Energies, LLC, would like to take credit for the
4 tour bus postcard to the Shirley project as public
5 outreach, that postcard was sent after two members
6 of the former town board signed the wind development
7 agreement with the town board's blessing. That
8 agreement was signed August 12th, 2010.

9 I believe in reducing our carbon footprint
10 as much as any person in this country. I do not
11 believe in taking advantage of my neighbors' quality
12 of life for my neediness. The comment has been made
13 about those without money from turbines being
14 jealous. I personally have not heard an amount
15 large enough to make me jealous. I find that
16 usually people who think wind is our energy answer
17 have never lived in the center of an industrial wind
18 park. I've read much of the application, I've read
19 all 200-plus public comments at least once. Of all
20 the farmers that lease their land to host turbines
21 for utility industrial wind farms, the question that
22 begs an answer is why are there no positive comments
23 from them about how great it is to live in the
24 center of an industrial wind park, how the shadow
25 flicker is great, how the noise is no louder than a

1 refrigerator? Where are the positive comments from
2 the farmers who know from experience? Thank you.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thank you,
4 ma'am.

5 (Witness excused.)

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Dena Cress.

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: D E N A, C R E S S.

8 DENA CRESS, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I have you at 2257
10 County Road P in Clear Lake?

11 MS. CRESS: Yes.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

13 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

14 BY MS. CRESS: I am Dena Cress, and I
15 reside in the Town of Forest. My husband, Brad, and
16 I have three daughters: Brook who's 9, Ellie 7, and
17 Cameron who's 2. When we first got married in 2000,
18 we looked for the perfect place to live and raise a
19 family. The opportunity came along to purchase some
20 land in Town of Forest, and we decided that this is
21 where we want to live and raise a family. It was
22 perfect. We both grew up in the country, we were
23 used to the quiet, rural living. This was a perfect
24 fit.

25 We bought the property, put in the sewer,

1 well, driveway and garage, and decided to put in a
2 trailer home to live in until we could afford a
3 home.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay, ma'am. Slow down
5 a little.

6 MS. CRESS: We planned and dreamed about
7 the house that we would build, and the dream finally
8 came true in 2005 when we were finally able to build
9 our home doing most of the work ourselves. There
10 hasn't been a day that has gone by that we haven't
11 been so grateful to live where we do. It is a
12 beautiful area with an abundance of wildlife. Every
13 morning, we watch the deer walk through our yard,
14 the birds are eating out of the feeder.

15 Brad has been an avid bow hunter since he
16 was a teen and has now gotten our older girls
17 involved in the sport. They check the trail cameras
18 with him, enjoy spending time looking at the buck
19 scrapes and looking for buck shed. We spend the
20 majority of our home time outdoors; and when we are
21 in the house, we are looking outdoors. We have nine
22 windows in our living room facing three directions
23 just so we could see outdoors at all times.

24 If you come into our house today, you
25 would see Brad's chair turned looking out the

1 windows where the deer cross, the spotting scope
2 sits right on our dining room table, and a pair of
3 binoculars laying on the kitchen island.

4 I'm very concerned that if the proposed
5 wind turbines go up that our life will dramatically
6 change. I'm concerned that the wildlife will leave
7 the area because of the turbines. If we no longer
8 have the abundant wildlife, it would be pointless to
9 own the property that we have because we live here
10 for the wildlife and for the scenery. I am
11 concerned that we are going to have to keep our
12 blinds closed in our living room and rarely be able
13 to look out our windows because of the shadow
14 flicker.

15 We are in the top ten residents in the
16 Town of Forest that are going to be affected by the
17 noise and the shadow flicker. I am afraid that we
18 are not going to enjoy sitting on our front porch or
19 even our back deck anymore because we'll have to
20 look at the turbines on both sides of our home.

21 Another concern is lack of cell service
22 that has been known to happen near turbines. If we
23 don't have cell service, our business could suffer.
24 That is my business line, and when I do most of my
25 business calls is at home.

1 Our biggest and main concern is the health
2 and safety of our three girls. We have heard of
3 people having terrible pressure in their ears as
4 well as sleep problems when they live near these
5 industrial wind turbines. Our children suffer from
6 motion sickness now. We are so worried that they
7 will suffer, as others have, living next to the
8 turbines. One of our children has problems with her
9 ears. I even -- I hate to think about putting her
10 through more pain if the turbines affect her as they
11 have so many others.

12 Brad suffers from migraines. Are the
13 turbines going to make it worse? I, myself, have
14 been medicated for anxiety and often have sleep
15 issues. I am worried that living in the middle of
16 this industrial wind farm would just make our
17 tolerable health issues intolerable. It is so sad
18 to hear that other people living next to these that
19 have to leave their homes because of the health
20 issues.

21 I am concerned that quality of our life
22 will change so much that we'll be forced to sell and
23 move, which brings up a whole 'nother issue, the
24 financial effects. If we're forced to sell, will
25 our property value be less once the turbines go in?

1 Is anyone going to want to buy our house in the
2 middle of an industrial wind farm? I'm concerned
3 that our property value will decrease.

4 If we would have known that some day we
5 would be living in the middle of an industrial wind
6 farm, we would have never built our home in Forest.
7 This breaks our heart that we would have to sell our
8 home that we have worked so hard to build.

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: You can take a break.

10 MS. CRESS: We had hopes that our children
11 would want to build their homes on some of the land
12 that we own. This hope is being shattered because
13 even if we stay after the turbines go in, they
14 wouldn't even be able to build on some of our land
15 because of the setbacks.

16 How can three people push through a
17 project of this size without a town vote? The
18 majority of the residents in Township -- in Forest
19 Township do not want this farm to go through. Why
20 didn't we have a say? What is even more disturbing
21 is that right now the fate of our township and life
22 as we know it is in the hands of a panel of people
23 who may have financial interest in wind energy and
24 do not live near Forest.

25 I feel that there are far better places

1 than Forest to place industrial wind turbines. It
2 just isn't a good fit for us. A good solution would
3 be to site the wind turbines 1,500 feet from our
4 property line. This would not have an effect on the
5 neighboring property lines, and this would help
6 alleviate a lot of the issues with property rights,
7 shadow flicker and noise. Please consider this,
8 with great sadness. I have a health exhibit too.

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I'd like to take a copy
10 of what you read. Thanks. Dena Cress, you
11 administered this questionnaire on September 20th,
12 same health surveys like I accepted before. And
13 it's also five pages. Okay. And I'll take your
14 comments as well just to check and make sure she got
15 everything down. Thanks very much.

16 MS. CRESS: Thanks.

17 (Witness excused.)

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Ellen Ard, A R D.

19 ELLEN ARD, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: You're at 105 South
21 Montana?

22 MS. ARD: Montana.

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Montana, New Richmond.

24 MS. ARD: Correct.

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And is there any

1 property or wind tower location you're concerned
2 about?

3 MS. ARD: All of them.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Fair enough.

5 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

6 BY MS. ARD: Good evening, everyone.

7 St. Croix County, as you know, is one of the fastest
8 growing counties in the State of Wisconsin. With
9 the completion of the Stillwater bridge project,
10 this will become one of the many super-highways
11 through the state. The County of St. Croix is
12 looking at a tremendous amount of growth in
13 residential housing and placement during this time
14 following the bridge.

15 The idea of turbines of utility scale
16 coming into the Town of Forest is something that was
17 not reasoned with at the time that all of the cities
18 and towns and villages were putting together
19 comprehensive plans, and the county, for the growth
20 of St. Croix County and the imminent growth from the
21 Stillwater bridge project.

22 Roads will be a major issue, given the
23 size and weight of the trucks which will carry the
24 equipment to the build sites. Our roads are not
25 equipped for that tonnage. Anyone can check the

1 St. Croix County Highway Department website to note
2 that the tonnage is listed; and that in the spring
3 and the fall, tonnage signs are placed on the roads
4 requiring that if you are over that weight, you will
5 not be utilizing these roads because they will not
6 bear the weight.

7 This is a great cost and will be a great
8 cost to road damage as road damage is not seen on
9 the surface. Road damage happens in the sublayer of
10 the road. And that is damage that you will not see.
11 And thus far, Emerging Energies has not presented
12 any resolution for dealing with damage to the roads
13 which will be below the surface. Anyone who has
14 worked with roads will tell you this is where the
15 damage occurs.

16 At the August 6, 2012, Health and Human
17 Services board meeting of St. Croix County, Bill
18 Ricosi of Emerging Energies answered questions for
19 the board on the proposed development of the
20 Highland Wind Farm. I would like to submit to you
21 at this time the audio recording provided by
22 St. Croix County of that meeting in its entirety.
23 You will find a time list of elements which
24 Mr. Ricosi spoke on. This would be my testimony and
25 it is also backed up by the minutes of town meetings

1 with the Town of Forest.

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. So the witness
3 has handed me a CD that's marked HHS board meeting
4 August 6, 2012, and I'll review this and make a
5 decision on its entrance into the record.

6 MS. ARD: Thank you very much. During the
7 board meeting, Mr. Ricosi was answering questions by
8 health and human services committee members.
9 Mr. Ricosi stated that in 2007, work had begun on
10 developing a project for Forest. In early 2008,
11 Emerging Energies began attending regular town board
12 and plan commission meetings.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Ma'am, slow down,
14 please.

15 MS. ARD: Oh, I'm sorry. Ricosi stated
16 that in April of 2008, a wind development resolution
17 was put together after a public hearing. I have not
18 been able to find such a citation in the local or
19 registered newspaper archives regarding said notice.

20 Mr. Ricosi stated that he had asked the
21 town board if they could please move forward with
22 the plans. The board responded that they would
23 prefer that Emerging Energies wait until the April
24 meeting as that was the annual meeting and more
25 residents would be in attendance. Ricosi stated

1 that the wind development agreement in place at the
2 time was basically the ground rules we are going to
3 play by.

4 Mr. Ricosi further stated that after
5 gathering information from the met tower, a company
6 from Albany, New York, laid out the plans for 57
7 turbines in the Town of Forest on property EE had
8 control over. Mr. Ricosi further stated that when
9 he presented options for the development size to the
10 town board, which included the option that a project
11 over 100 megawatts would go to the state, Ricosi
12 stated the town board replied, you know, we would
13 like to go as big as it can be for our own income.

14 In August of 2010, Ricosi states that the
15 resolution was brought forward at the town board
16 meeting; and at the time, the town board chair was
17 asked not once, not twice, but three times if there
18 were any concern regarding the development.

19 Roger Swanepoel was the town chair at that
20 time. He had recused himself from discussion due to
21 conflict of interest. The statements made by
22 Mr. Ricosi at the August 6, 2012, HHS board meeting
23 called to question as to the timeline, public
24 information output, open meetings violations, during
25 this process. Emerging Energies, LLC, is considered

1 to be a merchant plant under Wisconsin Statute
2 196.491(3)(d)(2) and (3). A merchant plant is not
3 an electrical utility and, as such, is not required
4 to meet the standards of a utility in order to
5 receive a certificate of public conveyance and
6 necessity. Because of the merchant plant language,
7 utilities that eventually purchase the development
8 circumvent the rigid process that they would
9 normally be held to.

10 Emerging Energies does not have the right
11 to eminent domain as a merchant plant. However,
12 eminent domain would be in vote, as it was in the
13 Shirley Wind project, once a utility has controlling
14 interest. Wisconsin is one of the few states that
15 has maintained its original constitutional language;
16 and within that document, there are several
17 protections for the residents of Wisconsin.

18 In Article I of the Wisconsin
19 Constitution, Section 13, the property of no person
20 shall be taken for public use without just
21 compensation. There is no amount of money that can
22 replace the natural landscape or the peace of mind
23 that you have in your home. You can't buy that kind
24 of security against a utility scale wind farm.

25 Under Section 14, all lands within the

1 state that are declared to be allodial and feudal
2 tenures are prohibited. Leases and grants of
3 agricultural land for longer than a term of 15 years
4 in which rent or service of any kind shall be
5 reserved and all fines and like restraints upon
6 alienation reserved and any grant of land hereafter
7 made are declared to be void.

8 The lease agreement that Emerging Energies
9 has presented and the limitations and prohibitions
10 of PSC 128 creates a feudal tenure in reverse, for
11 both participating and nonparticipating residents of
12 the Town of Forest.

13 Rather than running into the wind to
14 develop alternative power sources of which we know
15 little and have little scientific data, spending
16 hundreds of thousands of dollars on litigation, and
17 facing the possibility that individuals, the
18 environment and the land values may be harmed, it
19 does seem prudent that we should stop and take the
20 time to evaluate the logic, safety and efficiency of
21 wind turbines in Wisconsin. Thank you.

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, ma'am.

23 (Witness excused.)

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Sue Riba,

25 R I B A.

1 SUE RIBA, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And we have your
3 mailing address as 1856, is that 310?

4 MS. RIBA: Um-hmm. 310.

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: 310, okay, Glenwood
6 City. And any other address or turbine location you
7 want to point out?

8 MS. RIBA: We have four turbines that are
9 going to be within a mile of us. The closest one
10 might be a quarter of a mile.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. If you could try
12 speaking up so the people can hear you in the back.

13 MS. RIBA: Sorry.

14 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

15 BY MS. RIBA: My name is Sue Riba, and I
16 live in the Town of Forest. I've lived here, my
17 husband, Dale, and I, for 40 years. And I want you
18 to consider tonight what do you consider priceless?
19 Think about that for a minute. Webster's Dictionary
20 defines priceless as extremely valuable, beyond
21 price, so valuable that it cannot be bought.

22 Would you agree that your family, your
23 health, and your peaceful country living fit into
24 that description? Maybe you have a friend or loved
25 one who is suffering from a serious health issue.

1 What would you give for them to be healthy? Often
2 there is no amount of dollars that can buy your
3 health.

4 The wind turbines that are being proposed
5 for this Highland Wind Farm have had some serious
6 health effects for the people of the Shirley Wind
7 project in the eastern part of the state. This is
8 significant because they are one of the only
9 projects in the United States that have
10 500-feet-high wind turbines similar to the ones they
11 are proposing for us.

12 Many of the wind turbine studies that are
13 being quoted and referenced as safe for people are
14 old studies that were done several years ago. The
15 studies are based on turbines that are at least 200
16 to 250 feet shorter than the turbines that we are
17 dealing with in the Town of Forest. They have been
18 placed in very large fields in Illinois and Iowa,
19 far away from residents. Many people there don't
20 even live on their farms.

21 Wind turbines that are 500 feet tall have
22 only been used and built very recently. Emerging
23 Energies promised the people of the Shirley project
24 that there would be mitigation if there were any
25 health issues. On Tuesday in Madison, at the public

1 hearing, several residents were there to testify of
2 their personal health problems. Sleep depravation,
3 headaches, nausea, just to name a few. They stated
4 that Emerging Energies has done nothing to help
5 them. Their answer to these people, and I quote, is
6 we are not responsible because we have sold the
7 project. The project has been, in fact, sold two
8 times already since its completion in 2010. What do
9 you think this says for accountability and
10 responsibility to the residents of the Shirley
11 project? Would you agree that Emerging Energies has
12 abandoned these people when they needed it most?
13 Their health and well-being evidently doesn't seem
14 to matter, does it?

15 It makes you wonder if they will stand
16 behind the promises that they have made to the
17 residents and the families of Forest. Our farm is
18 nearing its 100th birthday. It's been a wonderful
19 place for several generations, and it's provided a
20 rich legacy of family and faith and peaceful country
21 living and work ethics that you cannot put a
22 dollar-and-cents value on. There's several other
23 fine dairy farms and many families who also want to
24 enjoy the beauty and the peacefulness that this area
25 provides.

1 And we would like to ask the PSC, we know
2 that our future and the future of our children and
3 grandchildren, it's in your hands. And we would
4 like to ask you to reconsider the proposal to build
5 these 41 500-foot turbines in the town -- this
6 little Town of Forest. The value of the quality of
7 the life that we have here is priceless. Thank you.

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

9 MS. ARD: Your Honor, may I add to the
10 record, just to clarify, that I was in attendance at
11 those meetings.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Hang on a second. Did
13 you need to hand me something?

14 MS. RIBA: No.

15 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Go ahead. Thanks.

16 MS. RIBA: I'm finished. Thank you.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you. Off the
18 record.

19 (Witness excused.)

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Ma'am, please go ahead.

21 MS. ARD: My name is Ellen Ard, A R D, 105
22 South Montana, New Richmond, Wisconsin. I'm a
23 resident of St. Croix County. I was in attendance
24 at the August 12th, 2010, Town of Forest meeting. I
25 was also in attendance at the August 6, 2012, health

1 and human services committee meeting for St. Croix
2 County.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Thank you
4 very much.

5 MS. BENSKY: Can I ask a question?

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Sure.

7 MS. BENSKY: How did you come to get
8 possession of the CD?

9 MS. ARD: I asked the county for their
10 recorded version of the day -- of the meeting.

11 MS. BENSKY: Is there a particular person
12 that you got it from, do you remember?

13 MS. ARD: I believe, after several phone
14 calls, I -- after several phone calls to the county,
15 first I tried the clerk of -- the county clerk, and
16 then I spoke with the secretary who then said we'll
17 have someone call you. And then I was called and
18 told that I could pick it up at the Health and Human
19 Services Center and it would be \$5.

20 MS. BENSKY: Thank you.

21 MS. ARD: You're very welcome.

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Dale Riba.

23 DALE RIBA, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And I have you at 1856
25 310 Street, Glenwood City?

1 MR. RIBA: Yep.

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. And let me
3 ask, any other property or turbine location you want
4 to pinpoint?

5 MR. RIBA: No. Probably there's just
6 four, four that are right east of me that are close.

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

8 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

9 BY MR. RIVA: I'm definitely out of my
10 comfort zone. I'm a dairy farmer and, as you can
11 see, I don't have a clipboard, I just -- you fold it
12 up and you bring it along. And I'd like to talk to
13 the subject of mitigation of stray voltage on a
14 dairy farm. I don't know if any of you have farmed
15 or do it on the side or what; but by the time -- you
16 have to understand that in a dairy herd, by the time
17 it gets to mitigation, your herd is ruined. You've
18 already ruined your herd, and then you try and go
19 get a little compensation for it. And there's just
20 no -- there's no getting that back.

21 You know, all my life I've bred cattle,
22 I've tried to take good care of them. And to have
23 the possibility of stray voltage would be tough on
24 me. It really would, and my family, and my son, and
25 my grandchildren. And it would also be tough on my

1 ability to earn a living.

2 And it's pretty hard to pass on a herd to
3 the next generation -- and I'm, you know, I'm about
4 ready to pass it on. It's pretty hard to pass it on
5 if it's been negatively affected by stray voltage.
6 And remember, we are the dairy state, not the wind
7 state.

8 So the next point that I have is I was at
9 a town board meeting. And the town board at that
10 time, the previous town board from what we have now,
11 approved dues for the state towns association that
12 they were a part of that. And I found out that the
13 towns association was against industrial wind
14 turbines in the State of Wisconsin.

15 So during the recall election campaign, a
16 gentleman came to me that was on the previous board.
17 And I asked him about that, I said why would you
18 want to pay dues, why would you want to be a part of
19 something that you don't go along with or you don't
20 follow their recommendation? And he told me
21 something that I don't think I've ever forgot. He
22 said most of the other places have a lot of people,
23 and you wouldn't want to place wind turbines next to
24 a number of people.

25 And I think to myself that the majority of

1 the people in Forest Township are asking: Am I not
2 important enough? You know. Now, I'd like you to
3 look around at all the faces here, which families or
4 individuals don't have enough value that you are
5 willing to sacrifice their quality of life? Do you
6 think there's some here? I don't know.

7 Please, this is my -- this is my plea.
8 Please do your homework before you make us take the
9 test. Thank you.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

11 (Witness excused.)

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. We have three
13 more people who submitted forms and selected that
14 they would like to speak. Are there any more forms,
15 any more people who would like to make a comment?

16 FROM THE AUDIENCE: Dale forgot to turn in
17 his health form. He's got it.

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Well, let's get off
19 record.

20 (Discussion off the record.)

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Back on the record.

22 This is W I E S E S?

23 MS. WIESER: Wieser. W I E S E R. My
24 handwriting probably doesn't help.

25 ROSALIE WIESER, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: State your name for the
2 record.

3 MS. WIESER: Rosalie Wieser.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And let's see, the
5 property you're interested in is 2087 310th Street
6 in Glenwood City; is that right?

7 MS. WIESER: Glenwood City is the address,
8 but it's in Forest Township. There's three wind
9 turbines within -- excuse me, four wind turbines
10 within three-quarters mile.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. And just let me
12 double-check. On your form you said you filled out
13 a sheet before?

14 MS. WIESER: I filled out one just like
15 that, only I didn't wish to speak, but I changed my
16 mind.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. But you didn't
18 write a comment on it?

19 MS. WIESER: No, I didn't.

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I just wanted to be
21 sure.

22 MS. WIESER: And the address -- I just
23 moved, so my other sheet I think I messed up the
24 current address, the numbers in it, but this one is
25 correct.

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Thanks. Go
2 ahead.

3 MS. WIESER: My name is Rosalie Wieser,
4 and my mom and my dad own land and live in the
5 Township of Forest and will be greatly affected by
6 these wind turbines.

7 Now, first of all, I want to state that my
8 birthday is on October 1st, and I like to brag that
9 it is always beautiful on October 1st. The leaves
10 are just gorgeous, and we don't have to go anywhere
11 to see those beautiful colors. We see them right
12 here in the Township of Forest.

13 Now, you've seen paintings of those
14 beautiful fall colors. Have you ever seen wind
15 turbines in those paintings? No. Anyone who thinks
16 that these wind turbines will not affect the
17 landscape, that they're just like telephone lines or
18 railroads, are just trying to put one by you.

19 Now, my parents -- well, first of all,
20 what is the concept of green anymore? Hollywood
21 has -- in my opinion has totally twisted that
22 concept of green. They fly around in their jets and
23 they party all night long; but hey, they carry
24 around those bags that have green labels on the
25 back. Or what about the political agendas? 10

1 percent of Wisconsin needs to have green energy.
2 We're going to put money into that. Well, at what
3 cost in our families' lives and what are we getting
4 from it? Are we really getting renewable energy?
5 What's considered renewable? Can you take back the
6 concrete? Can you put together the water table
7 again? Not the way I understand it.

8 And my parents in my opinion are green.
9 They lived in this -- they have lived in the
10 Township of Forest for over 40 years. They raised
11 us kids to appreciate the land. I have lived
12 outside. I did. We didn't go -- we went outside
13 when it was light out and we didn't come back in
14 until it was dark. And I feel sad because my
15 husband and I work in the -- you know, near town and
16 we currently -- my husband did work in St. Paul, but
17 we currently relocated to Brainerd, Minnesota. It's
18 beautiful there too. But we can't afford to buy
19 land. So I raise my 16-month-old daughter in town.
20 She constantly points to the door; and she says yes,
21 yes. And I go outside as much as I can with her.

22 It's not the same to raise your kid in the
23 city. I visit home as much as I can. And she loves
24 it. She says, grandma, I know what she wants, she
25 wants to be outdoors, she wants to feel God's

1 presence. In my opinion as a Christian, that's what
2 I believe. I never felt closer to God than when I
3 am out in nature. Have you ever gazed at a sunset
4 and felt moved, even if you're not a Christian, you
5 felt this grand presence inside of you. No one can
6 deny that. Even if you're not a Christian. You
7 felt something great.

8 I would not feel that if I looked outside
9 my parents' place and saw that sunset littered with
10 turbines, I would not feel that. Have you ever
11 woken up in the middle of the night and heard the
12 coyotes call? I have. It's beautiful. I don't
13 think I would hear that if those turbines were -- I
14 don't mean to be disrespectful, but it's in my
15 heart. I feel like they would just be littering the
16 land. You would not hear those coyotes call, at
17 least from the research I've done. Our animal
18 population would be drastically affected.

19 Back to my parents. They love the land.
20 Yeah, they hunt and, yeah, we gaze at fields that
21 are man-made. But at what cost do you plant fields?
22 You gain from those fields. You feed your cattle
23 that you treat with love and respect. My husband
24 grew up on a dairy farm. To this day, you can see
25 passion for cows in his heart. He always treated

1 the animals well. He speaks of other great dairy
2 farmers, and at least they get stuff in return. And
3 I don't mean to call it stuff. I'm not the most
4 educated or -- I feel like I'm educated, but I'm not
5 the best in speaking it in words.

6 But my parents love this land, they treat
7 the land well. I remember my mom always going for
8 long walks to get away from all of us eight kids,
9 all the noise of us eight kids. How else is she
10 going to get away from us? Nice long walks to be
11 with nature.

12 I just pray that you'll keep my parents'
13 place intact so that I can continue to bring my
14 daughter there. And like the gentleman said
15 earlier, how many Sheila Lammi's and Joe Shoptin's
16 do we need to shut down this idea of these wind
17 turbines when, yeah, I may be ignorant in some ways,
18 but I still don't understand how we can be here when
19 in my opinion the town board or Wind Energies put
20 the vote through secretly and with ulterior motives,
21 disregarding the concerns of the Town of Forest as a
22 whole.

23 If I was going to make a decision
24 personally to put a wind turbine on my land, I would
25 go out and seek everyone who would possibly be

1 affected because I would not want them to be -- feel
2 like their land or livelihood was compromised by
3 something that I did. Thank you very much, and I'm
4 sorry if I got emotional.

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: That's quite all right.
6 Thanks very much.

7 (Witness excused.)

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Now we have Fred Horne,
9 H O R N E.

10 FRED HORNE, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I just wanted to ask
12 you a quick question. It looks like you said you're
13 representing St. Croix County Health and Human
14 Services board?

15 MR. HORNE: I'm chair of that board.

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Great. So your
17 appearance today is on behalf of the board?

18 MR. HORNE: Yes.

19 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Not you personally?

20 MR. HORNE: I'll say a little bit of both
21 then.

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. If you just want
23 to let us know when you're switching one to the
24 other. And I have you at 215 North Third in New
25 Richmond?

1 MR. HORNE: That's correct.

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any other property or
3 turbine location you're concerned about?

4 MR. HORNE: It's basically all of them.

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

6 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

7 BY MR. HORNE: Most of my comments are
8 going to be about the -- I want to make sure that I
9 introduce the minutes of the March 21st, 2012,
10 St. Croix County Health and Human Services board
11 meeting and also the August 6th minutes of the
12 Health and Human Services board meeting.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Let me just
14 take that.

15 MR. HORNE: Actually that's my only copy.
16 I'll just summarize a little bit of basically at the
17 March 21st meeting, it was unanimous votes from the
18 HHS. Motion was introduced by Buzz Marzolf, who is
19 a supervisor, seconded by Linda Luckey, who is
20 another supervisor, unanimously adopted that the
21 board approve the recommendation of the
22 representatives of the Town of Forest and that their
23 four-part request made March 21st, 2012, and the
24 conclusion printed on page 9 of their presentation
25 be honored. And basically what they were asking,

1 the State of Wisconsin, basically a letter of
2 official support of the Brown County Board of Health
3 resolution, on behalf of the Town of Glenmore and
4 the Town of Forest, in the State of Wisconsin,
5 petition the State of Wisconsin to authorize and
6 execute third-party non-biased health studies in
7 existing wind energy projects areas to determine why
8 industrial wind turbines make some individuals sick.
9 I'm not saying that it makes everyone sick, but
10 obviously it makes some people sick, at least from
11 the testimony that we've heard. And to assist the
12 Town of Forest and residents within the project
13 footprint with a voluntary baseline population
14 health assessment before and after, should the
15 Highland Wind project be permitted by the Wisconsin
16 Public Service Commission.

17 And, again, that was by unanimous vote at
18 the March 21st HHS board meeting. And then as a
19 follow-up on the August 6th meeting, which is where
20 at this point in time I was the chair. At the March
21 21st I was not the chair. I was a member of the
22 committee, but not the chair. At the August 6th
23 meeting, Health and Human Services board basically
24 were making it very clear that our involvement in
25 this project is from a health perspective only.

1 We're not the authorities on wind studies. But from
2 the testimony and the public comments that we had at
3 that meeting, clearly there is concern about the
4 health of the people living within -- basically the
5 population living within these turbines. As was
6 mentioned earlier by individuals, St. Croix County
7 is one of the fastest growing counties in the state
8 and it just -- we have concerns of more and more
9 people being subjected to these large wind turbines
10 if they are approved. So much so that one
11 supervisor, Supervisor Hood, basically in our
12 minutes wanted -- he indicated he would like to go
13 on the record that there are health concerns with
14 industrial wind turbines and houses should not be
15 located in wind turbine areas.

16 So I just wanted to make sure that these
17 are part of the record. My personal comment is I
18 remember my father telling me many times when he was
19 in Korea that part of his MREs came with cigarettes.
20 Clearly the government was advocating that
21 cigarettes were good for you or at least they were
22 not harmful to you. Obviously, 50 years later we
23 all know differently.

24 And so tying this back to the Health and
25 Human Services board is I guess we have concerns of

1 we don't know enough about these wind turbines in
2 populated areas. As other people mentioned, they
3 don't want to be the guinea pigs, they don't want to
4 be the Petri dish, to find out 50 years from now
5 that wind turbines may in fact be a health concern.

6 So our position is we would like more
7 studies done before this project moves forward.

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you very much.

9 MR. HORNE: Thank you.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: So I have both --

11 MR. HORNE: Both of the minutes of the
12 August 6th and the March 21st.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right.

14 (Witness excused.)

15 EXAMINER NEWMARK: So we have Sheila
16 Lammi, L A M M I.

17 MS. LAMMI: Lammi, yes.

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Just so you know, she's
19 my last form for speaking. So get your forms up
20 here if you want to speak.

21 SHEILA LAMMI, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right, ma'am. I
23 have you at 2087 310th Street, Glenwood City; is
24 that right?

25 MS. LAMMI: 2087.

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And is there any other
2 property or do you want to pinpoint a turbine in
3 particular that you want to talk about?

4 MS. LAMMI: Well, there will be four less
5 than three-fourths of a mile around my home, and one
6 alternate site is three-tenths of a mile. And, of
7 course, they just spread out from there.

8 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

9 BY MS. LAMMI: I -- well, the PSC
10 Commission will soon make a decision regarding the
11 Highland Wind project. The wind industry special
12 interest groups are pushing their agenda. I don't
13 think they realize how negatively the residents
14 would be affected. The PSC should not approve the
15 project because the scientific studies are
16 incomplete.

17 Placing an industrial wind complex in a
18 populated rural setting would be using people as
19 guinea pigs. Forest Township is home to 648 people
20 in 36 square miles. There are less populated areas
21 in Wisconsin with just as much wind or more. I
22 actually found that on the website of maps showing
23 the wind and the population of Wisconsin. And
24 Buffalo County has more wind and less people, for
25 example.

1 According to the Clear Tech Writer for the
2 Milwaukee Journal on Wisconsin public radio,
3 September 2012 -- I happened to catch that radio
4 program by accident, it was quite interesting. They
5 were doing a study of putting service out over Lake
6 Michigan because they recorded wind speeds of 200
7 miles per hour at 410 feet. The study was being
8 done in conjunction with Michigan State, Wisconsin
9 and Michigan. But it has been put on hold because
10 of lack of funding.

11 But anyway -- I will talk about that again
12 later. But if a federal mandate means putting wind
13 turbines in -- he actually -- did I say this? He
14 actually said that Texas and Iowa and Indiana and
15 Minnesota are wide open and better resources. Did I
16 say that already? Anyway, I'm getting tired.

17 So we should be spending -- we should be
18 placing -- we shouldn't be placing millions of
19 dollars and tons of cement into a project thinking
20 we can remove them if it doesn't work out.

21 So why was Forest Township targeted in the
22 first place? In a letter, The Rest of the Story,
23 2011, results of a survey sent to Forest residents
24 was given as one reason that Emerging Energies began
25 looking at the Town of Forest. And that survey

1 never asked specifically about a wind industry
2 complex. The question was the Town of Forest should
3 pursue the energy alternatives as a form of economic
4 development: A, biofuels; B, solar energy; C, wind
5 energy; and D, other. Do you strongly agree,
6 disagree, disagree, strongly disagree or no opinion.

7 So of the 258 surveys sent out, 152 were
8 turned, almost 58 percent. And of those responding,
9 75 percent agreed with wind. And 70 percent also
10 picked solar. And some others, 46 percent, picked
11 bio and 12 percent picked other.

12 Well, I don't remember the survey, but I
13 probably would have agreed with all four choices.
14 Wind would have sounded good. After all, my uncles
15 all used windmills to pump water on their dairy
16 farms. And I know a man, a lawyer, Mr. Rebard, in
17 Glenwood City, he had solar panels on his house in
18 1970s or '80s, I can't remember for sure how long
19 ago it was. And I've driven by a private turbine on
20 my way to New Richmond thinking that was a good
21 idea. I didn't even -- back when the survey was
22 out, I didn't even know large turbines existed. And
23 also I would have thought that the survey was about
24 our own energy needs, not those of 30,000 households
25 far away from here.

1 And, of course, the Town of Forest
2 comprehensive plan, which has already been talked
3 about several times tonight and this afternoon, and
4 that plan supports this reasoning. It states, adopt
5 renewable energy policies and practices as part of a
6 strategy to meet future energy needs. I assumed
7 this is the energy needs of Forest Township. The
8 plan would even allow -- the plan would -- the whole
9 plan would not even allow the Highland Wind project.

10 The vision statement is, in the year 2030,
11 we envision that the Town of Forest will continue to
12 offer the rural country setting, small town
13 atmosphere, and well rated quality of life that it
14 does today. Clean water resources, farmlands,
15 forests and scenic open spaces will continue to
16 offer residents the opportunity to enjoy the wide
17 open spaces -- no, opportunities, I'm sorry, I
18 skipped a line -- will offer residents the
19 opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty and
20 resources of the community.

21 I believe high turbines would destroy the
22 scenic wide open spaces. And apparently others feel
23 the same way. That Michigan project that I was
24 talking about, they would place the turbines on
25 floating platforms in the Lake Michigan waters 30

1 miles out from shore. Why? So they would not be
2 visible.

3 Another part of the plan that would not
4 allow the Highland project is under the economic
5 development, it states overall -- this was talked
6 about, again, I said by others -- other than
7 agriculture, forestry, recreation and cottage
8 industry, consistent with the community's rural
9 nature, no new large-scale businesses or industry is
10 desired in the Town of Forest, unless it is located
11 in a designated area, in the hamlet of Forest or
12 along State Highway 64, as designated in the future
13 land use plan map.

14 Well, I think 40 500-foot turbines would
15 certainly be large-scale industry. The Highland
16 project would make other parts of the plan also
17 difficult to implement.

18 Now, this one I don't think I heard yet.
19 Promote the town as a desirable location for organic
20 farms. Nobody in my opinion would want to set up an
21 organic farm surrounded by turbines and transmission
22 lines. It may not even be possible. If we allow
23 wind industry, we would be losing a chance to better
24 feed our people. Growing food closer to the source
25 of consumption improves the health of the citizens

1 and saves energy. Shipping food fewer miles would
2 save gas, for example. In the book, The Meat You
3 Eat: How Corporate Farming Has Endangered America's
4 Food Supply, Ken Midkiff argues that raising food
5 locally will improve the quality of life for both us
6 and the farm animals.

7 Okay. I'm going to have to get a drink of
8 water. Is that all right?

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Yeah. Let's go off the
10 record.

11 (Discussion off the record.)

12 MS. LAMMI: Okay. Both the results of the
13 survey and the Forest plan suggests that we need to
14 spend time and money looking for other sources of
15 energy. Another thing by accident, I caught a
16 public television show, Nova -- and I think maybe
17 God is helping me because, you know, why did I -- I
18 never watch this channel at that time time of night,
19 so I think God's helping here somehow.

20 But anyway, on Nova, a scientist was --
21 well, they were talking about all the alternate
22 energies, and including wind by the way. And I
23 noticed that the wind was -- turbines were up where
24 they're away from homes. And, anyway, then they
25 also talked about solar. A scientist was describing

1 his search for cheaper solar panel materials because
2 that's the biggest drawback with solar is the price
3 of the panels. And he was having success, maybe --
4 hopefully maybe you can catch the show.

5 Another scientist was trying to make more
6 efficient solar panels by mimicking photosynthesis,
7 which is a very clean energy process as we know.
8 That's why we have plants growing in our houses.
9 And he was having some success with that. So solar
10 energy does look promising. And other alternate
11 energy sources are improving as well. Who knows
12 what the future holds?

13 More importantly, too, we must not forget
14 about conservation. And I don't see people really,
15 really doing as much as they could. And according
16 to Nuclear Energy is Not the Answer by Helen
17 Caldcott, conservation is very important. Because
18 the United States uses more energy than any other
19 country, we need to do more. Recycling helps, and
20 that's a good law that was passed. According to
21 Happiness Magazine, recycling one aluminum can saves
22 enough energy to run a television for three hours.
23 How about turning it off more? We should do -- how
24 about hanging clothes out to dry? I don't see that,
25 every home hanging their clothes out anymore. Just

1 turn the dryer on, use electricity.

2 Well, walking instead of driving, you've
3 all heard that. But how much do we actually do it?
4 And cloth bags instead of plastic? I guess -- I've
5 heard that this has really gone up in some cities,
6 but I don't see it around here. I'm one of the only
7 ones that -- maybe one or two other people that I've
8 seen in the last couple years using cloth bags for
9 their groceries. We especially need to stop
10 throwing food away. Having worked in local schools,
11 I have seen what ends up in the garbage cans.
12 Energy was used to produce, ship and prepare that
13 food. We are wasting it.

14 Other alternate energies and conservation
15 should be done in ways that protect the environment.
16 The Highland Wind project would not. My 40 wooded
17 acres will be surrounded by several turbines. More
18 would be less than three-fourths of a mile from my
19 house. One alternate turbine would be three-tenths
20 of a mile in the area of beautiful -- right in the
21 area of the beautiful sunsets that I look at every
22 night. And I have a lot of woods, so that's the sky
23 that I -- most of the sky that I have the best view
24 of, and some of the other turbines are going to be
25 in that same view because there's so many of them.

1 Let's see. Kind of skipped around a
2 little bit. Yeah, I've lived here for 40 years, and
3 it's been a struggle. But somehow we managed to
4 hang onto our home. Sometimes we -- being that I
5 live in the valley, we often have to drive up some
6 very dangerous icy roads, hills. To -- the one --
7 both ways out. And we have to drive up them to go
8 to the grocery store or to get to our place of work.
9 But even worse was slowly backing down the long,
10 steep hill if we didn't make it up. And, well, and
11 that would hurt after that.

12 And for many years our children endured
13 the long bus rides while attending a school 13 miles
14 away. And when we first moved out there when the
15 kids started school, they were the first ones on and
16 the last ones off. Now they changed that, you know,
17 so you can't be the last one off if you're the first
18 one on. But back then, it happened to my kids. So
19 they had some long bus rides. But the peace and the
20 beauty that we experience every day made those
21 sacrifices worth it.

22 And now that I'm in my 60s, I look forward
23 to sharing the woods not only with my children but
24 also with my grandchildren. But they have no desire
25 to hunt or hike near the industrial turbines. My

1 son actually had talked about buying my place, but I
2 don't know if he's scared -- I think he's scared
3 about these turbines and he's -- he moved back to
4 Alaska to live again. He used to hunt for -- he
5 would just be gone all day hunting in our woods.
6 And but what about the deer? In Our Wildlife Have
7 Disappeared, an article January 2009, Gerry Meyer of
8 Brownsville, Wisconsin, who lives inside an
9 industrial wind farm in Fond du Lac says, "I have
10 not seen a deer since the construction began. Many
11 years ago, my neighbor's father built a hunting
12 stand in the corner of the woods and shot many deer
13 from it. This year my neighbor saw no deer. The
14 only thing he saw was shadow flicker from industrial
15 wind turbines and the annoying sound from these
16 turbines." Those are his words.

17 So if the deer leave or too many bats are
18 killed, the damage is -- we don't even know the
19 damage. The whole ecosystem could change with
20 devastating results. According to the Department of
21 Natural Resources, fruit bats eat -- see, I noticed
22 something, I made a mistake. Oh, well, fruit bats
23 eat fruit, nectar and pollen which helps plants
24 pollinate. Did anybody think of a bat like that
25 ever? Of course, we all know they eat many species

1 of wasps, moths, leafhoppers, and flies including
2 mosquitoes, up to 600 in one hour.

3 And, actually, I caught another show by
4 accident. CBS This Morning, on October 3rd, not too
5 long ago, the program was about the great white
6 whale. Scientists are studying them to find out --
7 try to find out why they're declining. Because the
8 scientists predict that if we lose them, the
9 trickle-down effect would endanger our oceans. Who
10 would think that, hm? That one species could
11 endanger a big body of water like our oceans.

12 So if the turbines are built and my
13 children aren't around to visit so much, if at all,
14 the trails may be left to just me and my horse. And
15 because horses will not go near sounds -- or rather
16 near turbines, another mistake, horses will not go
17 near turbines, they may not be safe to ride. And I
18 went online; and according to Horse Sense by Ashley
19 Griffin, Horse Senses I mean, horses can hear a
20 wider range of sound than humans. They can hear a
21 range of 14 Hz to 25 KHz, compared to humans at 20
22 to 20. So that's 14 to 25 compared to 20 to 20.

23 And if any of you have horses, you know of
24 their ability to hear. And I mean, not their
25 ability to hear, I just mentioned that, their

1 ability to pick up a sound from different directions
2 and narrow in on it. This is because they have 10
3 muscles in their ears compared to our three, and
4 they can move their ears 180 degrees. And they can
5 single out a specific area to listen to. And this
6 allows the horse to focus on the direction a sound
7 is coming from, isolate it and run the other way.
8 Those of you who have horses know exactly what I'm
9 talking about.

10 This is from -- and there is another
11 article online from the Horse & Hound Magazine,
12 2004. And this is where the horse owners in Wales
13 opposed the wind farms because their horses acted
14 erratically around the wind turbines. The riders
15 reported hearing odd noises from machines saying the
16 horses did not like the turbines. And by the way,
17 there are many other horse owners besides me in the
18 Town of Forest. And I wish that -- I don't have a
19 count of them, and I wonder if Emerging Energies has
20 a count. And all you have to do is ride around
21 Forest Township, though, and you can see there are a
22 lot of horses.

23 And so I wouldn't be safe riding probably
24 or my children wouldn't be safe riding. I have a
25 daughter that loves to ride. And how about if we're

1 out in the yard, out in the woods, walking on road,
2 I would be a lot closer to the turbines than I
3 mentioned earlier. Would I be safe? How will they
4 affect my hearing aid and my television? And my
5 hearing, I don't -- and my eardrums are damaged from
6 since I was a little toddler, possibly from the red
7 measles, nobody even knows. And nobody even knows
8 how the wind turbines are going to affect them.

9 But there's an article, according to Dave
10 Staunton, he's a Welsh father of two children with
11 hearing aids. He says, "Turbines give off a low
12 frequency noise which can interfere with hearing
13 devices. There would also be a magnetic device from
14 the turbines and the apparatus for the hearing aid
15 has a magnet. It means that when they're outside,
16 my children would have to take their hearing aids
17 out which might not be safe."

18 And, of course, on the same website it
19 talks about television reception. The Ontario
20 residents in North Gower-Richmond, Ontario, reported
21 that as soon as the turbines started operating in
22 their area, their TV reception was interrupted. I
23 guess there were a couple dozen built nearby.

24 All right. So with all these changes to
25 my environment, my home would feel like a prison. I

1 would want to leave Forest Township which I never
2 wanted to since I've been here. I mean, I've
3 thought about it because it's been hard living
4 there. But it always came down to there's no other
5 place that I'd rather be. Of course now, with the
6 turbines coming in, there's a lot of places I'd
7 rather be. But it might be hard to sell my home,
8 which is all I have. I have enough money in the
9 bank right now just to pay my next real estate
10 taxes. Otherwise I'm living day-to-day.

11 So who's going to answer this ad: For
12 sale, recreational land, 40 wooded acres surrounded
13 by 41 500-foot turbines? Well, maybe the government
14 should exercise eminent domain and buy my property.
15 And I don't know, I guess that's not in the books at
16 all, I haven't heard anything about that.

17 So I hope the wind project is not
18 approved. We have a moral obligation to our
19 children and our children's children. We should not
20 be trading sunrises and sunsets for huge blades,
21 cement and transmission lines. Nobody says it
22 better, you all remember the Native American
23 Indians, right? And I think you know what kind of a
24 deal they got. Well, there was a peaceful Chief
25 Seattle that gave a famous speech, and I'm going to

1 just skip some lines and just, you know, read a few
2 of the lines, because I think he says it quite well.
3 And this was back in the mid 1850s: When the
4 government wanted to buy the lands of his exhausted
5 and defeated people, he responded in his native
6 tongue: How can you buy the sky? How can you own
7 the rain and the wind? My mother told me every part
8 of the earth is sacred to our people. My father
9 said to me we are part of the earth and it is part
10 of us. What will happen when the view of the ripe
11 hills is blotted by talking wires? Where will the
12 thicket be? Gone. Where will the eagle be? Gone.
13 And what will happen when we say good-bye to the
14 swift pony and the hunt? It will be the end of life
15 and the beginning of survival. Preserve the land
16 and the air and the rivers for your children's
17 children and love it as we have loved it.

18 So all of this talk about ownership, we
19 don't own this place, we don't own that place, you
20 don't own it. It's the people that are -- aren't
21 here yet. So let's think about those, and I hope
22 that we -- the PSC does not approve the project.
23 Thank you.

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

25 (Witness excused.)

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Let's go
2 off the record.

3 (Discussion off the record.)

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let's go on the record.
5 I think we have all our appearances. Anyone else?
6 No?

7 COMMISSIONER CALLISTO: I want to thank
8 everybody in the crowd for attending tonight.
9 You've been very helpful.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And I'd like to thank
11 you all for coming and your participation and your
12 comments, helpful comments, and your patience. And
13 your behavior here was excellent. Thanks very much.

14 (The hearing concluded at 9:25 p.m.)
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 STATE OF WISCONSIN)

2 MILWAUKEE COUNTY)

3

4 I, LYNN M. BAYER, RMR, Certificate of Merit
5 Reporter with the firm of Gramann Reporting Company, 710
6 North Plankinton, Suite 710, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, do
7 hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings,
8 and that the same is true and correct in accordance with
9 my original machine shorthand notes.

10 DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2012.

11

12

13

14 _____
Lynn M. Bayer

15 Certificate of Merit Reporter

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1	I N D E X		
2	WITNESS	EXAMINATION	PAGE
3	KIM ZOHLKE, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
4	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. ZOHLKE		868
5	CINDY KUSCIENKO, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
6	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. KUSCIENKO		873
7	CLAUDINE GOODRICH, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
8	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. GOODRICH		882
9	MELINDA GOODRICH, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
10	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. M. GOODRICH		885
11	JENNIFER ANDERSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
12	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. ANDERSON		887
13	BOB TREDINNICK, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
14	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. TREDINNICK		890
15	MONA KARAU, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
16	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. KARAU		894
17	RAY SMITH, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
18	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. SMITH		896
19	CASEY KELLER, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
20	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. KELLER		898
21	LORNA TIBERG, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
22	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. TIBERG		901
23	KEVIN LOMBARDO, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
24	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. LOMBARDO		903
25	NICKI SUNDAY, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		

1	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. SUNDAY	909
2	NANCY WILSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN	
3	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. WILSON	912
4	JOHN STROM, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN	
5	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. STROM	915
6	BRADLEY TRAASETH, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN	
7	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. TRAASETH	918
8	JOLEE BUHR, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN	
9	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. BUHR	921
10	KEVIN SALSEG, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN	
11	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. SALSEG	927
12	NICOLE MILLER, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN	
13	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. MILLER	931
14	PAT SCEPUREK, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN	
15	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. SCEPUREK	941
16	LORELEI SWANEPOEL, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN	
17	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. SWANEPOEL	948
18	DENA CRESS, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN	
19	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. CRESS	952
20	ELLEN ARD, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN	
21	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. ARD	958
22	SUE RIBA, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN	
23	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. RIBA	964
24	DALE RIBA, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN	
25	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. RIVA	969

1 ROSALIE WIESER, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 FRED HORNE, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

3 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. HORNE 978

4 SHEILA LAMMI, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

5 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. LAMMI 982

6

7 * * * * *

8

9 E X H I B I T S

10	NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MARKED	ADMITTED
----	--------	-------------	--------	----------

11		(None marked or admitted.)		
----	--	----------------------------	--	--

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25